

3rd meeting of the Technical Committee on Transport Facilitation

Location: Trieste

5.12. 2019

Agreed Conclusions

General conclusions

- The technical committee on transport facilitation (TCTF) welcomes the dedicated seminar on intermodality, ports facilitation and logistics held on 4th of December in Trieste, under the auspices of Central European Initiative, which was deemed very useful as it allowed for the first time to have dedicated discussions on those specific issues important for the general transport facilitation and intermodal connections in the region of Western Balkans, but also in the wider Adriatic region
 - The technical committee on transport facilitation (TCTF) agrees with the draft proposals for Technical assistance in studies and capacity building to be possibly carried out under the Transport Community, and proposes their adoption by the Regional Steering Committee. The proposals shall be finalized by 15.12.2019. The possible TA could include:
 - legal and institutional assignment for enabling signing and implementation of bilateral agreements for one stop controls at road BCPs, with a view to be based on regional standards to be developed
 - producing Guidelines for design of new BCPs and alignment of existing BCPs in line with the international best practice (in cooperation with CEFTA)
 - setting in place a monitoring system on border crossing time, as well as other multimodal corridor performance indicators, and capacity building for implementation of most important transport facilitation instruments
 - The TCTF welcomes the EC approval of the initial request for TA for establishing electronic queueing management system (eQMS) on Corridor X (Orient East Med corridor) and urges CONNECTA and the Permanent Secretariat for Transport Community to proceed with the finalization of the Scope of Works, taking into account SEED+ and other needed elements for commencement of the Project by early 2020
 - The TCTF acknowledges the future cooperation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community in the business platform developed by the Western Balkans Chamber of Investment Forum enabling dialogue with the private sector and the broader business community
 - The TCTF reiterates the importance of the involvement and active participation of the EU MS in the work of the TCTF, as well as their commitment to enable finding solutions to BCP issues, and will take measures to coordinate the actions of both MS and SEE parties.
 - The tentative schedule for TCTF meetings in 2020 is: 2nd week of March, 1st week of June and 4th week of September. The possibility for a joint meeting with the TC on Rail is highly recommended
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- Next Chair of the TCTF in 2020 will be Bosnia and Herzegovina

Specific conclusions

- By the next Sherpa meeting on 10.12.2019 in Brussels, authorities from KS and MK need to agree on having joint meeting to finalize the negotiations on the Protocols for the rail border crossing agreement
 - KS and MK are asked to prioritize road BCP Hani i Elezit /Blace as a joint BCP, for which a design is planned to be supported by CONNECTA, bearing in mind the approval of the request for TA is pending the negotiations and signature of the bilateral agreement
 - After MoU was signed with Greece, MK is asked to proceed with the next steps for opening negotiations for rail and road border joint controls with Greece
 - A joint meeting among BIH, HR, the Transport Community Secretariat and the European Commission will be organized with all competent authorities, possibly when Svilaj bridge is opened for traffic, to discuss all open issues with regards the road and rail BCPs between BIH and HR
 - SRB and MNE are asked to prioritize the road BCP Dobrakovo/Gostun as a joint BCP, for which a design is planned to be supported by CONNECTA, bearing in mind the approval of the request for TA is pending the negotiations and signature of the bilateral agreement
 - The joint technical committee between ALB and MNE is asked to hold its next meeting by the end of January 2020
 - The TCTF members shall send written comments, if any, on the Transport facilitation action plan, by 15.12.2019.
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