

5th Technical Committee on Railway meeting held on 29 April, 2020 via Skype

Purpose: exchange of information on current situation and possibly opening new subjects

All participants confirmed that freight operations are almost at the same level as before crisis, while passenger transport is at standstill. Rail freight is not so affected as other modes of transport.

At WB6 all RPs kept a certain number of BCPs (7 with EU member states, 5 internal) working 24h, with exception of Brasina between BIH and SRB (from 7am-7pm). There were some problems at the beginning of the crisis, but everything was solved bilaterally in a short period of time.

Analysis of traffic volume in comparison with the same period last year: total almost at the same level, max 5-10 percent less. There was no significant disruption of freight transport.

All RPs welcomed the idea on further assessment for establishing direct rail passenger connections between capitals.

In some parties, passenger traffic will be reestablished during May. (Serbia, Kosovo*, North Macedonia).

All RPs supported the idea about substitution of road transport with rail transport. The main problems are: lack of adequate wagon fleet, absence of multimodal transport, poor network of the dry terminals, long waiting times at the border, no pre-arrival info to speed up border procedures.

All Regional participants acknowledged outcomes of the final conference of the "Safer LC" project.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on Kosovo Declaration of Independence.