

3rd MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE TRANSPORT COMMUNITY

Brussels 26 October 2020

Presidency Conclusions

- The Ministerial Council meeting was welcomed and chaired by Minister Vojin Mitrović and co-chaired by Commissioner Adina-loana Vălean and Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi.
- The Ministerial Council approved the agenda of the meeting.

THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE TRANSPORT COMMUNITY,

1. Reiterates that its overall priority remains the full implementation of the Transport Community Treaty (TCT).
2. Welcomes the interventions of Commissioner Adina-loana Vălean, Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi and Minister Vojin Mitrović, President of the TCT Ministerial Council and Minister of Transport and Communications of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
3. Welcomes the newly appointed Director of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat ('the Permanent Secretariat') Mr. Matej Zakonjšek and Deputy Director Ms. Ljuba Siljanoska.
4. Welcomes the coordinating and monitoring role of the Permanent Secretariat and its related activities, as well as the work of technical committees.
5. Recalls the conclusions of the previous sessions of the Ministerial Council and the declarations endorsed by the Transport Ministers of the South East European (SEE) Parties.

Confirms that its priority remains the full implementation of the TCT.

6. Commends the work of the Transport Community during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically in relation to the establishment of the "Green Corridors / Green Lanes" initiative, which was jointly set-up with CEFTA, in order to guarantee the free flow of essential goods within the Western Balkans during the sanitary crisis.
7. Recalls the success of the "Green Corridors / Green Lanes" initiative among the parties to the TCT and calls for a renewed approach, building on the achievements to date, to establish concrete health and sanitary measures to ensure the continuation of transport flows between the EU and the Western Balkans during a public health crisis.
8. Acknowledges and expresses its gratitude for the invaluable work of transport workers who continue to work tirelessly to deliver essential goods during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.
9. Welcomes the presentation of the European Commission Communication on an Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans and expresses its

commitment to implement and be fully involved in the achievement of the objectives of the connectivity agenda.

10. Expresses satisfaction at the technical work developed in the Regional Steering Committee and in the technical committees established under its guidance.
11. Welcomes the endorsement of the Action Plans for Rail, Road, Road Safety and Transport Facilitation and reinforces its commitment to obtain positive results from them and to implement them in a timely manner.
12. Thanks the relevant technical committees for their pioneering work in defining priorities for transport development in the region.
13. Commits to ensuring that the implementation of the action plans will remain on its agenda and that follow-up measures will be agreed.
14. Commits the utmost for the successful implementation of the action plans in collaboration with the respective South East European (SEE) Parties and to allocate the necessary resources for the timely achievement of the objectives that are set.
15. Recalls that the implementation of the Action Plan for Transport Facilitation, which has as its aim to reduce the waiting times at the border/common crossing points, will bring the necessary improvements to infrastructure, management and operations within the SEE Parties as well as with EU Member States, in view of decreasing waiting times. It supports the intention of the Permanent Secretariat to explore the means to establish a more efficient system of control and border formalities by competent authorities between SEE Parties, as well as with EU Member States.
16. Recalls that the implementation of the Rail Action Plan will enable rail market reform at regional level, will allow for further enhancement of regional cooperation and will ensure progressive integration of the SEE Parties rail network into the EU, on the basis of the relevant acquis, including areas of technical standards, interoperability, safety, security, traffic management, social policy, public procurement and environment.
17. Reiterates that the implementation of the Action Plan on Road will contribute to the development of intelligent systems and a climate resilient resource-efficient Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) road network in the Western Balkans, which will align to the indicative extension of the TEN-T, by incorporating sustainable and smart elements in road investments and operations.
18. Reiterates that the implementation of the Action Plan on Road Safety will significantly decrease the number of road fatalities and serious injuries with the aim of achieving Vision Zero. SEE parties commit to reduce road fatalities to almost zero by 2050, and to achieve, as ultimate aim, a road traffic system with no fatalities or serious injuries.
19. Welcomes the establishment of the Social Forum and supports the Permanent Secretariat in its endeavour to address social issues in the transport sector.
20. Expresses enthusiasm concerning the organisation of the EU – Western Balkan Summit in Sofia in November 2020, and expresses hope of progress on connectivity reform measures.

21. Acknowledges and welcomes the fact that the EU has designated 2021 as the European Year of Rail, and therefore encourages all regional participants to enhance their efforts toward improving their rail connections and at the same time strengthen commitment in achieving progress on agreed rail reforms.
22. Welcomes and supports the intention of Permanent Secretariat to organise a regional Rail Forum in 2021.
23. Welcomes and supports the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking and the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat.
24. Agrees to further strengthen the work of the Ministerial Council by holding annual informal meetings, organised by the Permanent Secretariat.
25. Will take stock of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Transport Community Treaty and approved action plans, as well as already agreed declarations (at the TEN - T Days in Ljubljana) and connectivity reform measures at the next meeting in 2021.

October 2020

For the Ministerial Council,
The President
Mr Vojin Mitrović,
Minister of Transport and Communications