

5th Technical Committee on Road Safety

23 September 2020, via Video Conference

Agreed conclusions

1. Members of the Technical Committee on Road Safety welcomed the new Director of Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, Mr. Matej Zakonjšek. Mr. Zakonjšek presented the most important priorities of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat for the upcoming period and the future as well. He highlighted the importance of coordinated cooperation in the region to achieve the ultimate goal of Vision Zero – elimination of all traffic fatalities and severe injuries.
2. Members of the Technical Committee welcomed messages of keynote speakers. Mr. Jean Todt, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety and President of FIA, addressed the participants via video message stressing out that partnership between legislators, policymakers, private sector, NGOs and civil society is the key to success. He also emphasised that we must ensure that our citizens go safe to work, our children travel safely to school and offer them freedom of mobility.
3. Members of the Technical Committee acknowledged welcomed the Keynote speech and the support of DG MOVE Deputy Director-General and European Road Safety Coordinator Mr. Matthew Baldwin. Mr. Matthew Baldwin highlighted the importance of the paradigm shift to a Safe System aiming to develop a road transport system that is better able to accommodate *human error*.
4. Members of the Technical Committee welcomed the presentation made by Mr. Volker Orben, President of ROADPOL, who presented ROADPOL's strategy. Mr. Orben underlined the importance of ROADPOL Safety Days, as an event created to raise awareness of road safety issues across Europe, and stressed out that strong relationships between stakeholders along with the political will and leadership are crucial for achieving goals in this area.
5. Members of the Technical Committee acknowledged the message of Mr. Jonathon Passmore from WHO Regional Office for Europe, on the importance of road trauma issues and prevention when it comes to enhancing safety on roads.

6. COVID-19 pandemic time has significantly decreased road traffic crashes and serious injuries in most of the Regional Participants. The reasons relate to the lockdown period, reduced traffic on roads. Speeding is remaining still the main factor of causing road traffic crashes on roads. The first quarter of the 2021 year will give a clearer picture of the statistics.
7. CONNECTA Team is in the final phase of preparing the design draft documentation for the project of “Preparing the Detail Designs for Improving the high-risk road sections in the TEN-T network in Western Balkans”. The deadline foreseen in the work plan is mid of October. Transport Community Permanent Secretariat asked CONNECTA to deliver a draft summary of the report first week of October 2020. The draft summary report will include the financial cost of the works for the improvement of the high-risk road sections. Hence, Regional Participants would be able to coordinate their work with NIPAC’s Offices and commit to applying for funding in the WBIF call (December 2020), based on the results of the draft summary of the report delivered from CONNECTA.
8. Due to the COVID19 situation, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat has proposed to Regional Participants new extended deadlines for the Road Safety Action Plan (on 7th September 2020). Regional Participants' suggestions on the extended deadlines are all accepted. The Road Safety Action Plan with the revised deadlines will be a subject for approval from the Regional Steering Committee in the forthcoming meeting on 8th October 2020.
9. Transport Community Permanent Secretariat will distribute by mid of October the report on the ‘State of play’ of the Action Plan. Regional Participants will update it accordingly based on the latest developments in road safety measures.
10. The next meeting is proposed to be held during the last week of November/first week of December (date to be confirmed).
11. Transport Community Permanent Secretariat proposed to organize a regional event on the occasion of the visit of Mr. Jean Todt to the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat premises from 4th – 5th December 2020.
12. Transport Community Permanent Secretariat invited members of the Technical Committee to propose ideas for practical regional events which would include all road safety actors and be beneficial for sharing best practices and experiences.

Belgrade, 24th September 2020.