



1st SOCIAL FORUM OF THE TRANSPORT COMMUNITY

Videoconference, 26 October 2020

Agreed Conclusions

- The Social Forum was welcomed and chaired by Mr Matej Zakonjšek, Director of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat.
- The Social Forum approved the agenda of the meeting and its rules of procedure.

THE SOCIAL FORUM OF THE TRANSPORT COMMUNITY,

1. Welcomes its establishment and pledge to work for the implementation of the relevant social acquis with regard to transport as set out in Annex I. of the Transport Community Treaty.
2. Commits to reinforce and promote social dialogue and the social dimension through the reference to the EU acquis in social matters, the workers' fundamental rights and the involvement of the European Economic and Social Committee and the national and European social partners acting in the transport sector.
3. Welcomes the message of Commissioner Adina-Ioana Vălean and looks forward to enhancing cooperation between the EU and the Regional Partners in the future.
4. Welcomes the newly appointed Director of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat ('the Permanent Secretariat') Mr Matej Zakonjšek.
5. Welcomes the coordinating and monitoring role of the Permanent Secretariat.
6. Recognises the efforts of the European Commission services and invites all Regional Participants to implement the EU social policy legislation , which is the pillar of a fair, inclusive and thriving transport sector.



7. Observes that the Western Balkan region needs to improve further its social policy and that political hurdles should be removed to make transport seamless and more fluid.
8. Stresses the importance of focusing its attention on the following key areas, as prescribed in Article 27 (2) of the Transport Community Treaty¹:
 - “(a) workers’ fundamental rights according to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the European Social Charter, the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers, and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
 - (b) labour laws – in relation to the promotion of improved working conditions and standards of living;
 - (c) health and safety at work – in relation to improvements in the working environment concerning the health and safety of workers in the transport sector;
 - (d) equal opportunities – with a focus on the introduction, where necessary, of the principle that men and women ought to receive equal pay for equal work.”
9. Takes note of the interventions of the delegations attending the Social Forum concerning the state of play of social policy and social dialogue in the region.
10. Agrees to work on the Guidelines on Social Provisions to be transposed and implemented, and to bring the priorities set out therein to the attention of national decision makers.
11. Acknowledges that health and safety at work is of the utmost importance, particularly in times of pandemic.
12. Endorses the work of the Transport Community and CEFTA during the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular the establishment of the “Green Corridors / Green Lanes” initiative that guaranteed the free flow of essential goods within the Western Balkans during the sanitary crisis.

¹ Treaty establishing the Transport Community, *JO L 278*, 27.10.2017, p. 3.



13. Encourages Regional Partners and EU Member States to improve the procedures at border crossings in view of facilitating the transport operations and improving working conditions for all transport workers involved in international traffic.
14. Acknowledges and expresses its gratitude for the invaluable work of transport workers who continue working to deliver essential goods during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis.
15. Appreciates the value of the “Covid-19: guidelines for the progressive restoration of transport services and connectivity, and early warnings in the event of a second wave of COVID-19” and their potential to enhance and restore connectivity towards a sustainable and smart recovery of the transport sector in the South-East European parties.
16. Expresses support to the “Declaration on equal opportunities for women and men in the transport sector” signed on 13 September 2019 in Belgrade, Serbia, and invites Governments of the Regional Partners to take the necessary steps to implement these objectives into their national policies development.
17. Acknowledges the growing problems linked to an ageing workforce that will in turn affect the availability of workforce in the transport sector.
18. Summons the Governments of the Regional Partners to support education and training in line with the goal of achieving a sustainable and green transport and to invest more in youth education from an early age, on issues such as road safety, cycling rules, and, later on, driving behaviour and career perspectives in the transport sector.
19. Furthermore, the Social Forum invites the Governments of the Regional Partners to reconsider their relationships with academia, to take into consideration the need of further investment in research for the future and digitalisation and to exploit research results in transport policy making.
20. Agrees to meet again in 2021 and, in the spirit of the European Year of Rail, to discuss social issues related to rail transport.

Done online, on 26 October 2020