

FIRST ONLINE RAIL WORKSHOP BETWEEN: ALBANIA, ERA, DG MOVE, DG NEAR AND TCT SECRETARIAT

Location: MS Teams Meeting
Date: 22.10.2020
Time: 11:00
Facilitator: Dejan Lasica (TCT Secretariat)

Agenda

11:00 – 11:05	Introductory Speech <i>Transport Community Treaty Secretariat</i>	Matej Zakonjsek <i>Director TCT Secretariat</i>
11:05 – 11:10	Introductory Speech <i>European Rail Agency</i>	Josef Doppelbauer <i>Director ERA</i>
11:10 – 11:15	Introductory Speech <i>Albania Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure</i>	Artan Shkreli <i>Deputy Minister ALB MEI</i>
11:15 – 11:30	Establishing an Electronic register of vehicles/joining the EVR from 2021 onwards	All Participants <i>Lead: ERA</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Establishing Rail infrastructure and Asset Management System (RIAMS)	All Participants <i>Lead: ERA</i>
11:45 – 12:00	Transposition and implementation of forth Rail Package	All Participants <i>Lead: TCT/DG Move</i>
12:00 – 12:15	Establishing of contractual relationship between IM and the State	All Participants <i>Lead: TCT</i>
12:15 – 12:30	Training and certification of train drivers	All Participants <i>Lead: ERA</i>
12:30 – 12:45	Transport Community Treaty commitments of Albania	All Participants <i>Lead: TCT</i>
12:45 – 13:00	Other topics relevant for Albania	All Participants <i>Lead: ALB</i>

Additional information

The working language of the Workshop will be English.

Transport Community Permanent Secretariat

ALBANIA FIRST ONLINE RAIL WORKSHOP

11:00 – 13:00, via Microsoft Team

Minutes of meeting

1. Introductory Speech, Mr. Matej Zakonjšek, Director TCT Secretariat

TCT Secretariat Director Matej Zakonjšek welcomed all participants and highlighted that the objective of the first online rail workshop is to discuss exact needs in Albania regarding the establishment of Electronic Register of Vehicles and other railway issues where TC Secretariat could assist to achieve envisaged goals.

2. Introductory Speech, Mr. Josef Doppelbauer, Executive Director ERA

ERA Director Josef Doppelbauer welcomed TCT Secretariat's initiative to have internal discussions with all RPs to discuss establishing of EVR as well as other safety and interoperability issues.

ERA Director also mentioned 2 documents prepared by ERA with regard to COVID crisis: Protocol on safe railway services and Guidelines on safe ventilation system, both available on ERA website.

Other highlights of discussion:

- ERA will be EU Authority for Safety Certification and Vehicle Authorisation
- ERA welcomes ALB dedication and work on the Rail System improvement.
- ERA express the willingness to continue the cooperation with ALB in terms of Training and Licensing of train drivers and recognition of licenses, as it was discussed in Durrës during the meeting on 27.06.2018.
- ERA Understand the needs of progress in Infrastructure, Rolling Stock, Signaling and Safety is crucial.

3. Introductory Speech, Mr. Artan Shkreli, Deputy Minister ALB MEI

Deputy minister of Albanian Ministry of infrastructure and transport Artan Shkreli underlined better connection between capitals in the region as a priority.

Other highlights of discussion:

- ALB is investing lots of resources and energy on Improving the Rail Infrastructure.
- ALB is supporting the EU Flagship Projects of the EU Commission on their Economic and Development Plan for WB6 countries.
- ALB is now investing in Rail rehabilitation Durres - Tirana and Tirana - Airport Link, financed by IFI's.
- ALB is supporting the full establishment and connection of the Corridor VIII.
- ALB is in procedure of introducing four new laws in Railway area which will bring the ALB legislation closer to the EU legislation.

4. Establishing an Electronic register of vehicles/joining the EVR from 2021 onwards

ERA expert Christoph Kaupat informed participants that as of June 2021 onwards European vehicle register will be operational. He also mentioned that ERA has ongoing IPA agreement with DG NEAR to help Albania to get connected to EVR. ERA stands ready to help Albania in the following months to help joining to European EVR.

Other highlights of discussion:

- ERA will help Albania to join the EVR so the Rolling Stock can be registered and to be able to transit internationally.
- ALB expressed that there is published Register on the web page where vehicles with valid licenses are registered.
- The Register of the vehicles is done according to national law and ALB has as goal EVR to be implemented together with the introduction of the new EU aligned regulation from the next year.

5. Establishing Rail infrastructure and Asset Management System (RIAMS)

ERA expert Kornel Nagy held a presentation on the Database of European Railway Infrastructure (RINF). Other highlights of discussion:

- An infrastructure register as a part of RIAMS aims to catalogue network offer for train path sales (including capacity inventory, track access charge calculation and data integration for EU wide business tools), to perform vehicle route compatibility checks, design of mobile subsystems, check the feasibility of train services etc.
- An infrastructure register could also be a useful tool for TC Secretariat to follow developments on interoperability for WB countries.
- The EU's infrastructure register is called RINF and has the following characteristics:
 - RINF is set up and managed by the Agency, it allows to download and import files by National Registration Entities (NRE) in charge of the implementation of the register at national level.
 - Over 220 parameters groups: identification, performance parameters, line parameters, track parameters etc.
 - RINF shall be updated by 1 January 2021 in order to streamline the process of updating the data in the application to allow infrastructure managers to update information as soon as it becomes available, to improve the description of the network, to provide information regarding possible routing of the network.
- How Albania keeps inventory of railway assets now? Bashkim Kasoraho: Standard hard copy inventory for all their assets now.
- ERA will be on disposal to Albania to overcome all challenges regarding track access charge and establishing of RINF.
- Within the EBRD Project for Rail reconstruction, ALB has engaged consultant which will develop New Asset Management Plan for the ALB Rail which now it is done on paper.

6. Transposition and implementation of fourth Rail Package

DG MOVE pointed out that the provisions of legislation from 2016 (technical pillar) dealing with role of the ERA to which executive tasks were given: it is only applicable to EU MS. The way to transpose this instrument can be different, but also can be by following the approach taken by Serbia and to include the relevant provisions of the Directive in national law with reference to ERA but with transitional period, entrusting the relevant tasks and responsibilities to national bodies and authorities in transitional period.

DG MOVE also clarified that application of 4RP technical pillar as of 31 October 2020 in the EU and repeal of Directive 2004/49/EC and Directive 2008/57/EC as of the same date.

Other highlights of discussion:

- As regards the implementing acts, in accordance with fourth Railway Package, the EC started revision of the annexes and soon shall be fully updated with full list of regulation to be transposed.
- TC Secretariat has started update of Annex I of the Treaty – formal update is expected on first RSC meeting in 2021, cutoff date 1st September 2020
- The establishing of national safety authority is an upcoming challenge.

- Albania has 4 laws to be adopted: on separation of infrastructure and operation division in railway, on establishing national safety authority, on regulatory authority and licensing, and for establishing authority for incidents and accidents both in railway and maritime sectors. ALB stated that the Laws are in final stage of preparation before the governmental procedure and passing to parliament for final approval afterwards.

7. Establishing of contractual relationship between IM and the State

Dejan Lasica from TCT stated that the separation of the IM and RU's will be first needed in Albania and that there are good examples for this in the region.

Other highlights of discussion:

- TCT Offered Support for this issue to ALB based on the experience on other countries
- ALB stated that there is separation but not formal. They wait the laws to enter into force and the separation to be formal.

8. Training and certification of train drivers

Ahmet Allamani emphasized the problem of elderly staff (train drivers), which is why proper schools for new train drivers and their training and certification are needed.

Other highlights of discussion:

- ERA expert Olaf Mette mentioned that there was workshop in 2018 on this subject, and that TSI implementation contains elements of staff related requirements.
- ALB mentioned that there is a Project of reducing national rules for staff – switch from rule-oriented approach to risk based behavior and that there is nothing new to train driver certification, since they are waiting for amendments of Directive, and that this is not expected before 2023 or 2024.
- ALB mentioned that they will face an problem in future because the old train drivers. So, it is necessary to open a school for training of staff and there is a need to find funding for this kind of school.
- RU created new classes of trainings for train drivers – around 20 persons were trained to pass the exam in the future for train drivers.
- Certificates are not yet implemented in new rules. Once implemented RU will cover it. Current licensing procedures as similar as for other sectors, only without psychological testing.
- Albania is on good track to establish regular education and certification for train drivers and can count on ERA for help in all further required procedures.

9. Transport Community Treaty commitments of Albania

Since the Annex I revision is ongoing, TCT will try to make mechanism to monitor progress of transposing and implementation of legislation and details will be arranged with each Regional Partner.

Other highlights of discussion:

- There are expectations from Albania that the published map of the network statements should be updated regularly including Port railway services, infrastructure capacities etc.
- In regards Rail market opening on domestic level, Albania has shown good progress, next target shall be regional market opening. Albania will be among first RPs to recognize main rail documents (licenses)
- Current Albanian law does not recognize certificates issued in other countries.
- New authorities will probably be subjects to carry out process of licensing for foreign operators.
- DG MOVE: market opening would only be effective if technical conditions are in place and that is why transposition of interoperability directive and secondary legislation (TSIs) are extremely important, all must be done in synchronized manner with other regional partners. There are

remaining two challenges: technical pillar and market pillar. Albania has no challenge with market pillar, but for the technical pillar, Albania will have to work to fulfill technical conditions.

- ALB stated that there is EBRD Consultancy which will deal with the Update of the Network Statement and Railway services to be updated to accommodate the needs of the market.
- ALB have still not decided to open the Market on Regional Level.

10. Other topics relevant for Albania

- Connection of railway to ports as priority for both private and public companies.
- DG MOVE: with regard to infrastructure projects it is important for foreign investments that the technology used complies with the EU technical standards for interoperability.
- TC Secretariat sent Questionnaires to all RPs to make data collection on current state of infrastructure and indicated basic standards. The goal is to establish baseline for TC Secretariat's first report and then measure progress.

Other Discussions

- TC Secretariat Rail Policy Coordinator Dejan Lasica emphasized that Albania was first in WB6 to adopt Rail Action Plan, it held chairmanship of Technical Committee on Rail during 2019 and 2020. Albania has shown strong readiness for rail reform with its new rail law, being the first RP to have 2 private RU and one concessioner as well as private infrastructure manager.
- TC Secretariat Director concluded that the workshop proved to be an excellent model to bring together all stakeholders who decide upon railway issues.
- He announced that on 26 October the Rail Action Plan shall be adopted on Ministerial level.

Conclusions:

- All participants welcomed the organization of this meeting between Rail Authorities in Albania and Transport Community Secretariat, DG MOVE and ERA.
- European Union Agency for Railways will support Albania during establishing an Electronic register of Vehicle.
- All participants acknowledged presentation given by ERA regarding establishing of Register of Infrastructure (RINF).
- Albania presented ongoing activities regarding Rail Asset Management System.
- Transposition of the 4th Rail Package technical pillar will be one of the priorities for Albania.
- TCT representatives will visit Tirana (November) to discuss how to be provide further assistance.
- Rail Action Plans to be main objective for future developments.
- Albania has four laws in final stage of preparation before the governmental procedure and passing to parliament for final approval afterwards. This procedure is expected to be finished in 2021 and the laws to enter into force effective during 2021.