

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

Location: MS Teams Meeting
Date: 27.10.2020
Time: 11:00
Facilitator: Dejan Lasica (TCT Secretariat)

Agenda

11:00 – 11:05	Introductory Speech <i>Transport Community Treaty Secretariat</i>	Matej Zakonjšek <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>BIH Ministry of Communication and Transport</i>	Nedžad Branković <i>Deputy Minister BIH MCT</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 the National Safety Authority, National Investigation Body, Regulatory Body	All Participants <i>Lead: ERA/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 BIH	All Participants <i>Lead: TCT</i>
12:45 – 13:00	Other topics relevant for Bosnia and Herzegovina	All Participants <i>Lead: BIH</i>

Additional information

The working language of the Workshop will be English.

Transport Community Permanent Secretariat
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 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 such workshops are the most effective way to discover the exact needs of regional participants, as well as to organize in depth discussions individually, merging between technical and political side in order to enable work of all stakeholders in the same direction.

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

Executive ERA Director Josef Doppelbauer welcomed TCT Secretariat's initiative to have individual discussions with each regional partner in order to define exact needs and state of play of each participant, as well as to address other issues in domain of interoperability and safety. ERA Director introduced two 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.

ERA Director pointed out that this authority has issued more than 1000 decisions and authorized more than 12000 vehicles since establishing its new powers in June.

He welcomed efforts of BiH to bring forward its railway system, pointing out to several joint activities in recent past, such as visit of two ERA accident investigation experts to BiH in 2018 etc.

ERA stands ready to help BiH in preparation of future market opening through IPA projects, in particular with establishing EVR, strengthening the role of national investigation bodies, mutual recognition of train driver licences with neighboring countries etc.

3. Introductory Speech Deputy Minister BiH MCT Mr. Nedžad Branković

Deputy Minister Branković thanked TCT Secretariat on behalf of BiH's Minister of transport for organizing workshop gathering regulatory bodies, relevant entity enterprises and representatives of the ministries of all levels.

He expressed dedicated to further development of BiH railway system and implementing EU directives and legislation.

He confirmed its commitment to implementation of directives of Fourth Railway Package. In that regard he announced that BiH has already started alignment of legislative framework, but reform of the institutions is needed in order to be able to implement all the reforms.

He emphasized that current BiH Railway Public Corporation (BHŽJK), established in 1997, is mature for reform, two entities are its founders.

In order to intensify mobility in the region, Mr Branković proposed to establish alliance for railway transport of passengers – so called “Western Balkan Rail Alliance” (WBRA) and proposed it to be supported from IPA funds.

TCT Secretariat Rail Coordinator Dejan Lasica emphasized efforts that BiH has made in previous year in the rail sector, in particular he thanked the participants of the Technical Committee on Railways for their contributions in preparation of Rail Action Plan that was endorsed on 26th October by Ministerial Council. He also underlined significance of BiH's contribution to monitoring rail operations during COVID crisis.

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

Railway Regulatory Board Sladjana Okolić: since 2013 there is legal basis in BiH law to join EVR.

Database on railway vehicles is established, standard national vehicle register is not connected to virtual register managed by ERA due to technical issues, hope to resolve it in the future in order to be connected from 2021. Some external consultations with ERA will be needed in this regard.

ERA expert Christoph Kaupat informed participants that as of June 2021 onwards European vehicle register will be operational. He encouraged BiH to connect to European EVR and expressed ERA's readiness to help in this regard, with provided budget within IPA projects. The only obstacle on ERA side might be their temporary capacity problems, with relate to assistance in transferring data of several other EU MS to European EVR by June 2021.

Deputy Minister will make sure, in coordination with line ministry, to facilitate in solving mentioned technical problems, by putting effort in organizing discussion in the ministry in order to join the EVR from 2021 onwards

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

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

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.

TC Secretariat: How do BiH manage the inventory of assets?

Railways of Federation BiH: -Vahid Djozo, advisor of general manager – as regards database infrastructure – all data exist in different formats and books, but most of the data is not digitalized, He expressed willingness for railway system to be digitalized as soon as possible. Republika Srpska Railways representative, Mr Zelenkovic expressed aim to be part of EU infrastructural network, confirming that data exists but not in digital manner, company is in the phase of reconstruction and will procure new management system.

Deputy Minister: Infrastructure management issue is of key importance regarding speed of preparation for interoperability, BiH stands ready to situate infrastructural management in completely new way. Current situation with 2 integrated companies established and owned by 2 entities leaves lot of space for tech differences and lack of planning and coordination.

Fourth railway package leaves space to introduce railway corporation to be infrastructure manager or “manager of infrastructure manager” as it says.

DG MOVE representative raised a question related to the railway Network Statement (Article 27 and Annex IV of Directive 2012/34/EC); now, there is no publication of NS in BiH; where is Bosnia in preparation and publication? The NS shall be made consistent, on an annual basis with, or shall refer to, the rail infrastructure registers to be published in accordance with Article 35 of the interoperability Directive 2008/57/EC.

Deputy Minister Branković pointed out that, with the transposed fourth railway package, the BiH Railway Public Corporation role will be adequate for internal coordination and introduction of Network Statement. By this the Network Statement will become a technical question.

TC Secretariat: Establishing RINF will be a strong tool for planning, internal assessment of all data of railway infrastructure to be put in one available folder for all stakeholders, internal assessment can then be base for further steps.

TC Secretariat: As regards Working group for rail law changes – when to expect adoption or first draft, main changes? What It aims to achieve?

Deputy Minister: There is Framework Law on railway in BiH with new law implement fourth railway package, in accordance with security recommendations, will establish investigation role now in railway regulatory body. Comments from the EC are expected to be obtained, it is expected to be in parliamentary procedure in the 1st half of 2021.

Ismet Demirović (Federal Ministry of transport and communication): Role of authorities of corporation should be extended, in 2010 network statement was created by Ministry and railway of Federation, there are electronic data that could be used for activities mentioned in the first part of this workshop, one network statement created by the corporation would be sufficient.

On entity level, partially in accordance with BiH Law on railway, need to amend entity railway law as it governs establishment and governing of railway companies. It is not expected in the near future to adopt this law due to political reasons.

Ms Vozni Vesna from Republic of Srpska Ministry of transport stated that when 2017 Law on railways was adopted, there is open issue: who will manage register of infrastructure and assets. This need to be agreed on state level before consulting ERA.

TC Secretariat: BiH should make additional efforts to prior agree internally who will manage the register, and then push the activities on state level, as well to prepare network statement in second quarter of 2021 if possible?

Conclusion: - BiH will make internal assessment regarding necessary data in aim to make database and to establish electronic register of infrastructure. BiH can count on support of ERA and TCT Secretariat with regard to this.

6. Transposition and implementation of fourth Rail Package

DG MOVE pointed to the provisions of legislation from 2016 (technical pillar, safety and interoperability directives) dealing with role of the ERA to which executive tasks were given ((issuing safety certificates, vehicle permits etc): it is only applicable to EU MS. The way to transpose this instrument by the regional partners can be different, but it is suggested 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.

As regards the implementing acts, in accordance with fourth Railway Package, the EC and the TC Secretariat have started screening of Annex I of the Treaty to eliminate obsolete legislation and supplement with acts currently in force, in particular the new Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSIs): formal update is expected on first RSC meeting in 2021, cutoff date 1st September 2020. This should become a yearly exercise.

BiH Deputy Minister confirmed that the endorsed Rail Action Plan is very precise and shall be followed.

7. Establishing of the National Safety Authority, National Investigation Body, Regulatory Body

TC Secretariat: Bosnia already has ROŽ as 3 in 1 body – Regulatory body, NSA, National investigation Body. National investigation body should be separated and independent.

Deputy minister – there are ongoing analysis whether to leave national investigation body within ministry as it is now or become autonomous body in accordance with Directive.

8. Training and certification of train drivers

ERA Kristof Kaupat: ERA supports the EC in the development of common minimum requirements and procedures concerning staff certification of train drivers.

Train drivers should undergo psychological and medical checkups on regular basis, all in aim to enhance interoperability.

Deputy Minister suggested ERA to develop mechanism of certification for schools where train drivers are educated in WB region. In BiH, as in the rest of the region, railway school centers specialized to train staff for railway transport exist, it would be good if ERA standard for those institutions was introduced, in order to facilitate mutual recognition.

ERA Director- ERA will have a closer look into this, discuss internally to see how far can progress in that direction.

9. Transport Community Treaty commitments of BiH

TC Secretariat underlined importance of 5-year maintenance plans, the benefits for infrastructure managers and the sustainability of work which this plan can provide. He invited BiH to develop it as EU Acquis as well obliges to it, but also, based on maintenance plan, it is possible to develop multi annual contracts between infrastructure managers and the government.

DG MOVE representative commented that without the register of infrastructure assets and management system, it is virtually impossible to develop maintenance plan without knowledge on current condition in order to plan activities; he recalled the study commissioned by DG MOVE to the consultant CONNECTA two years ago, which delivered a comprehensive report on practical steps and methodology to setup infrastructure asset management system and develop maintenance plans. The reports are uploaded on the website of the TC and available to all RPs. He invited all stakeholders to look at report (report 3 and 4 especially) as a tool for developing maintenance plan.

TC Secretariat: For monitoring condition of rail infrastructure one vehicle is foreseen to pass region with adequate equipment to collect data which will be stored in RP's systems, and based on that info proper maintenance plans can be developed.

Second priority is the improvement of safety on level crossings. A lot of accidents in all RPs are happening and the assessment of critical points on the network will be done and in addition to this, a project with construction work and direct procurement shall be executed.

Deputy Minister: Council of Ministers of BiH endorsed all the action plans previously endorsed by TC Ministerial Council.

10. Other topics relevant for Bosnia and Herzegovina

TC Secretariat Director welcomed rail workshop as action-oriented discussion in railways.

Deputy Minister underlined need to work on change of perception of railways in the region, as it is usually viewed as slow and inefficient, and that the guidelines from fourth railway package could improve the image of railway in that regard.

TC Secretariat Director highlighted rail as main priority in EC investment plan, in particular flagship projects 1, 2 and 3 are directly connected to subjects discussed today. He reiterated

significance of endorsed Rail Action Plan, as well as signing of MoU with S2R joint undertaking. TC could organize regional rail summit/conference in the second half of 2021 as year of railways.

TC Secretariat representatives will visit Bosnia and Herzegovina (November) to discuss how to be provide further assistance.

Conclusions:

- All participants welcomed the organization of this meeting between Rail Authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Transport Community Secretariat, DG MOVE and ERA.
- European Union Agency for Railways will support Bosnia and Herzegovina for the establishment of an Electronic register of Vehicle (EVR).
- Bosnia and Herzegovina will work on removing technical issues for establishing EVR.
- All participants acknowledged presentation given by ERA regarding establishing of Register of Infrastructure (RINF).
- Bosnia and Herzegovina presented ongoing activities regarding Rail Asset Management System. Representatives of BiH agreed that establishing of electronic register of the rail infrastructure is priority. In terms of that, BiH will make assessment/data collection (in one folder) in aim to make database, which is a necessary for setting up electronic register of the infrastructure.
- Transposition of the 4th Rail Package technical pillar will be one of the priorities for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Amendments on Law on railway will be in the Parliament procedure in the first half of 2021. In accordance with that, Network Statement will be published during 2021.
- New position of the Railway Regulatory Board will be defined through the Amendments on Law on railway and internal process of the reorganization. National investigation body will be established.
- In preparation of 5-year maintenance plan, infrastructure managers in BiH will use CONNECTA guidelines issued in 2018 as tool for developing maintenance plan.
- TCT representatives will visit Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss how to be provide further assistance.
- All participants acknowledged proposal given by Deputy Minister of Communications and Transport of BiH regarding the establishment of the alliance for railway transport of passengers – so called “Western Balkan Rail Alliance” (WBRA).
- All participants acknowledged proposal given by Deputy Minister of Communications and Transport of BiH regarding suggestion to ERA to try to develop mechanism of certification for schools where train drivers are educated in WB region.
- All participants acknowledged importance of EC communication on economic and investment plan (COM (2020) 641 final) as well as signing of MoU between TCT Permanent Secretariat and S2R JU.
- Implementation of the actions from the Rail Action Plan to be main objective for future developments.