



TRANSPORT COMMUNITY

TRANSPORT COMMUNITY
THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

The Transport Community is an international organisation in the field of mobility and transport, consisting the entire EU and the six Western Balkans regional partners. We are integrating Western Balkans' transport markets into the EU, by assisting the six Western Balkans partners to adopt and implement the EU legislation in the field of transport and by supporting projects that are connecting Western Balkans regional partners among themselves and with the EU.

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ACTION PLANS

ROAD • ROAD SAFETY • RAIL • TRANSPORT FACILITATION





The four Action Plans of the Transport Community are an instruction manual on all important steps and milestones, with accompanying timeframes, that will guide us on the path of delivering on concrete aims and ambitions: safer roads; reduced waiting time at border crossings; reliable and modern rail; and roads of the future with integrated green and digital elements.

The documents are aligned with the European Commission's Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, which envisions EU investments in transport and connectivity projects that will contribute to further integration in the region and better ties with the EU.

The **Road Action Plan** aims towards development of climate resilient, intelligent, and resource-efficient TEN-T road network in Western Balkans by incorporating green and smart elements in road investments. Our final aim is to stimulate innovative, low emission and fit for digital age road transport operations.

Transport Facilitation Action Plan will further strengthen regional cooperation. Creation of joint "one-stop-go" at internal and external border crossing points, coupled with better interaction of different transport modes along will enable smoother, more efficient, and less costly logistic chains.

The **Rail Action Plan** provides the basis for deeper integration with the EU rail market. A rail system which is safe, inclusive, reliable, environmentally and socially sustainable, and inter-connected within the region and with EU is the overarching aim of the Transport Community.

Road safety Action Plan promotes safety management, safer infrastructure, and protection of road users. Its actions strive to support the "zero deaths" objective, and to encourage regional best practice examples. Transport Community's aim is to ensure that transport systems, no matter how they are configured, are safe, sustainable, and equitable.

This booklet is a collection of Action Plans as endorsed by the Ministerial Council of the Transport Community on 26th October 2020, and as such they represent crucial documents of the region, by the region and for the region.

RAIL ACTION PLAN



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“WE NEED TO MAKE TRAVEL WITH RAIL POSSIBLE AND ATTRACTIVE FOR OUR CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES AGAIN. WE SHOULD ALSO INVEST IN RAIL SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT MULTIMODAL SOLUTIONS IN THE REGION TO BE CONSIDERED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT MODE.

A RAIL SYSTEM WHICH IS SAFE, INCLUSIVE, RELIABLE, ENVIRONMENTALLY AND SOCIALLY SUSTAINABLE, AND INTER-CONNECTED WITHIN THE REGION AND WITH EU IS THE OVERARCHING AIM OF THE TRANSPORT COMMUNITY.

THE RAIL ACTION PLAN PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR DEEPER INTEGRATION WITH THE EU RAIL MARKET. ONLY OUR COMMON APPROACH AND OUR COMMON ACTIONS CAN LEAD TO A COMMON MARKET.”

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1. INTRODUCTION

Joint declaration for a new Regional Rail Strategy in the Western Balkans, endorsed by Transport Ministers and representatives of the Western Balkans parties (meeting in Brussels on the occasion of 2nd Ministerial Council, December 2018) was the starting point for the development of the Regional Rail Action Plan.

In Poznan (2019), WB Leaders endorsed the first set of actions for development of a regional rail strategy in the Western Balkan.

Transport Community Secretariat has established Technical Committee on Railway as a relevant body for all rail issues. TC on Railway consists of two representatives per regional participant (three for BIH). Also, different organisations took the role as observers and contributed to our common work (ERA, Shift to Rail, CER and EIM). Austria, Greece, Croatia took part on behalf of EU member states. DG MOVE and DG NEAR provided the support.

Finally, in November 2019, Rail Action Plan was adopted at the level of technical committee. We now have a solid base regarding the legislation as well as a roadmap of future steps.

Reference documents

- Transport Community Treaty;
- Joint declaration for a new Regional Rail Strategy in the Western Balkans, endorsed by Transport Ministers and representatives of the Western Balkans parties;
- Joint Declaration on Borders and Common Crossing Points, endorsed in 2018 in Ljubljana;
- Terms of reference and mandate of the Technical Committee on Railways;
- First set of actions for developing a regional rail strategy in the Western Balkans;
- Conclusions from Poznan Summit;
- Conclusions from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Technical Committees on Railway.

2. RAIL ACTION PLAN - CONTENT

The Rail Action Plan for developing a regional rail strategy in the Western Balkans is divided into six types of actions: Rail market opening, Passenger rights, Border/Common crossing operations, Interoperability, Governance and Modernisation of rail infrastructure.

The Rail Action Plan was adopted at the 3rd Technical Committee on Railway. Because of COVID-19 pandemic, a limited number of indicative deadlines set out in the Rail Action Plan back in 2019 have become obsolete or unrealistic. Some deadlines were therefore adjusted at the 7th Technical Committee on Railway. Rail Action Plan covers the period 2020-2023.

RAIL MARKET OPENING

- Amend laws to remove potential breaches of TCT provisions regarding market opening (phase 1)
- Establish functioning institutions (regulatory body, licensing body, national safety authority, national investigation body, designated body) – including legal, administrative, and budgetary actions
- Publication of Network Statement for railway infrastructure
- Publication of Network Statement for service facilities (sea and river ports, terminals)
- Take legislative and/or regulatory measures to achieve mutual recognition of operating licenses, train driver licenses, safety certificates, vehicle authorisation
- Modernise rules on public procurement in the rail sector through transposition and implementation of Regulation 1370/2007 concerning public transport services by rail
- Establish contractual relation between IM and competent authorities for maintenance and operation on public infrastructure

ACTION (regional partner concerned)	REGIONAL PARTNERS CONCERNED + DEADLINE FOR		SUPPORT ACTION - ASSISTANCE
	Full transposition	Implementation	
Amend RP's law to remove potential breaches of TCT provisions in regard to opening up the market at level of each RP (phase 1)	North Macedonia Q2 2021 Bosnia and Herzegovina Q1 2022	North Macedonia Q4 2021 Bosnia and Herzegovina Q4 2022	EU DEL to assist in the process TC to provide inputs
Establish functioning institutions (regulatory body, licensing body, national safety authority, national investigation body, designated body) –including legal, administrative, and budgetary actions	All RPs Q1 2021	All RPs Q4 2022	TC Secretariat to map on-going and potential TA
Publish Network Statement for railway infrastructure	Albania Q1 2021 Bosnia& Herzegovina Q2 2021	Albania Q2 2021 Bosnia& Herzegovina Q4 2021	TC Secretariat to support and share examples and best practices
Publish Network Statement for service facilities (sea and river ports, terminals)	All RPs Q4 2020	All RPs Q1 2021	
Take legislative and/or regulatory measures to achieve mutual recognition at regional level of: operating licenses, train driver licenses, safety certificates, vehicle authorization	All RPs Q2 2021	All RPs Q1 2022	TC Secretariat to map state-of-play WG on Border crossing/CCP to help in the implementation
Modernize rules on public procurement in the rail sector, including through transposition and implementation of Regulation 1370/2007 concerning public transport services by rail	All RPs Q1 2021	All RPs Q1 2022	TC Secretariat to provide best practice from the EU member states
Establishing of Contractual relation between Infrastructure Manager and competent authority for the maintenance and operation on public infrastructure	BiH – Q4 2021 Kosovo* – Q1 2021 MK, ALB – Q1 2021	BiH – Q2 2022 Kosovo* – Q2 2021 MK, ALB – Q2 2021	TC Secretariat to provide best practice from EU MS and WB.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

PASSENGER RIGHTS

- Transpose and implement Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007

ACTION (regional partner concerned)	REGIONAL PARTNERS CONCERNED + DEADLINE FOR		SUPPORT ACTION - ASSISTANCE
	Full transposition	Implementation	
Transpose and implement Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007	All RPs Q1 2021	All RPs Q1 2022	

GOVERNANCE

- Create a network of EU DEL rail correspondents in the region to assist in the implementation and monitoring of the TCT Rail Action Plan
- Organise a stakeholder workshop on the streamlining of technical assistance and financing of the reform of the rail sector and rail infrastructure projects in the Western Balkans (ERA, S2R, CER, EIM, WB, EIB, EBRD, EU DELs, DG MOVE, DG NEAR, CONNECTA, EU MS...)

ACTION (regional partner concerned)	REGIONAL PARTNERS CONCERNED + DEADLINE FOR		SUPPORT ACTION - ASSISTANCE
	Full transposition	Implementation	
Establish a network of EUDEL rail correspondents in the region to assist and support the implementation and monitoring of the TCT Rail Action Plan.	All RPS Q1 2021	All RPS Q2 2021	DG NEAR/ TC Secretariat to set up and maintain the EU DEL network
Organize stakeholder workshops on the streamlining of technical assistance and financing of the reform of the rail sector and rail infrastructure projects in the Western Balkans (ERA, S2R, IFIs, EU DELs, DG MOVE, DG NEAR, EU MS...)	All RPS Q1 2021	All RPS Q2 2021	TC Secretariat to organise the event, in liaison with DG NEAR and DG MOVE

INTEROPERABILITY

- Transpose and implement the Interoperability Directive 2008/57/EC (valid until June 2020) and its new version Directive (EU) 2016/797 (4th railway package)
- Transpose and implement all EU Technical Specifications for Interoperability
- Prepare a detailed plan for review and cleaning up of national rail technical and safety rules in line with the EU rail acquis and the prerogatives of ERA
- Establish an electronic register of vehicles, taking into account the European Centralised Virtual Vehicle Register (ECV)
- Establish an electronic register and management system of railway infrastructure, taking into account the existence of the European Registers of Infrastructure (RINF)
- Adoption of five-year Maintenance Plan

ACTION (regional partner concerned)	REGIONAL PARTNERS CONCERNED + DEADLINE FOR		SUPPORT ACTION - ASSISTANCE
	Full transposition	Implementation	
Transpose and implement the Interoperability Directive 2008/57/EC (valid until June 2020) and its new version Directive (EU) 2016/797 (4th railway package)	All RPs Q1 2021	All RPs Q2 2021	TC Secretariat to establish precise state-of-play Q1 2021
Transpose and implement all EU Technical Specifications for Interoperability - Directive 2008/57/EC	All RPs Q1 2021	All RPs Q4 2021	TC Secretariat to establish precise state-of-play Q1 2021
Prepare a detailed plan for the review and cleaning up of national rail technical and safety rules in line with the EU rail Acquis and the prerogatives of ERA	All RPs Q1 2021	All RPs Q4 2022	ERA IPA TA for the period 2020-2022
Establish an electronic register of vehicles, taking into account the European Vehicle Register (EVR), which will be operational from 16.6.2021	All RPs Q2 2021	All RPs Q1 2022	ERA
Establish an electronic register and management system of railway infrastructure, taking into account the existence of the European Registers of Infrastructure (RINF)	All RPs Q2 2021	All RPs Q2 2022	DG MOVE ERA

IMPROVING RAIL BORDER-CROSSING /COMMON CROSSING OPERATIONS

- Transpose and implement the Interoperability Directive 2008/57/EC (valid until June 2020) and its new version Directive (EU) 2016/797 (4th railway package)
- Transpose and implement all EU Technical Specifications for Interoperability
- Prepare a detailed plan for review and cleaning up of national rail technical and safety rules in line with the EU rail acquis and the prerogatives of ERA
- Establish an electronic register of vehicles, taking into account the European Centralised Virtual Vehicle Register (ECV)
- Establish an electronic register and management system of railway infrastructure, taking into account the existence of the European Registers of Infrastructure (RINF)
- Adoption of five-year Maintenance Plan

ACTION (regional partner concerned)	REGIONAL PARTNERS CONCERNED + DEADLINE FOR		SUPPORT ACTION - ASSISTANCE
	Signing	Implementation	
Signing/upgrading all bilateral BCAs and their implementation			TC Secretariat
Serbia – North Macedonia	Done	Q4 2023	
North Macedonia – Kosovo*	Q2 2021	Q4 2023	
North Macedonia – Greece	Q4 2021	Q4 2023	
Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia	Q1 2021	Q3 2021	
Serbia – Bulgaria	Q1 2021	Q3 2021	
Serbia – Montenegro	Done	Q1 2022	
Serbia – Croatia	Q1 2021	Q4 2021	
Serbia – Hungary	Q1 2023	Q4 2023	
Serbia – Romania	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	
Serbia – Bosnia and Herzegovina	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	
Preparation of technical arrangements for Kosovo's* railway companies (IM, RU) toward regulation of rail traffic on rail Route 7 and 10	Agreement signed on 4.09.2020 in Washington by Kosovo*, related to rail transport links.		
Preparation of technical arrangements for Serbian railway companies (IM, RU) toward regulation of rail traffic on rail route 7 and 10	Agreement signed on 4.09.2020 in Washington by Serbia, related to rail transport links.		

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

MODERNISATION OF RAIL NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE

- Establish a regional network of infrastructure managers for regular consultation and coordination at regional level before adoption of maintenance plans for railway infrastructure and for the schedule of work, as well as other relevant activities
- Identification of priority projects of regional interests for the upgrading / reconstruction / construction of specific railway sections
- Level-crossings Safety Improvement (mapping the most critical LCs within WB)
- Adoption of five-year Maintenance Plan

ACTION (regional partner concerned)	REGIONAL PARTNERS CONCERNED + DEADLINE FOR		SUPPORT ACTION - ASSISTANCE
	Full transposition	Implementation	
Establishing a regional network of infrastructure managers for regular consultation and coordination at regional level before adoption maintenance plans for railway infrastructure and for the schedule of work, and other relevant activities.	All RPs Q1 2021	All RPs Q3 2021	Consider support / assistance of the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers 'EIM' and CER.
Identification of priority projects of regional interests for the upgrading / reconstruction / construction of specific railway sections in line with priority list agreed in Vienna 2015, and Connectivity agenda	All RPs Permanent task	All RPs Permanent task	TCP Secretariat
Level-crossings Safety Improvement (mapping the most critical LCRs in Core/Comprehensive network)	All RPs Q1 2021	All RPs Q1 2022	ERA, DG Move, TC Secretariat
Adoption of five-year Maintenance Plan	All RPs Q2 2021	All RPs Q1 2022	DG MOVE ERA TCP Secretariat Inputs from CONNECTA's studies