



8th meeting of Technical Committee on Railway

Virtual Session via Microsoft Teams

21st January 2021 10:00-12:30

Agreed Conclusions

1. All Regional Participants (RPs) and the European Commission representatives approved Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's proposal on Bosnia and Herzegovina to chair Technical Committee on Railway in 2021. All RPs acknowledged efforts of North Macedonia as previous chair of the Technical Committee on Railway.
2. As Progress report on implementation of the Rail Action Plan has shown no visible progress in the last reporting period, a dedicated session in this regard shall be organized by TC Permanent Secretariat in the following weeks with all RPs.
3. All RPs were invited to speed up their efforts in transposition and implementation of EU legislation in aim to achieve tangible results before next Ministerial conference (June 2021).
4. All participants welcomed DG MOVE's presentation on the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy adopted by the EC in the end of 2020. RPs were invited to fulfil and deliver questionnaires (previously distributed by the TC Permanent Secretariat), by the end of January 2021, in order to determine current milestones and plans. This might lead to developing similar strategy for the WB6 region.
5. TC Permanent Secretariat informed the participants on COVID-19 Impact and resilience measures in the previous period: local rail passenger transport has been reestablished in all RPs, whereas international rail passenger transport exists only between Serbia and Montenegro. Trend: in 2020, rail transport is around 10% affected compared with the same period in 2019. The situation at border crossings shows no bigger delay than usual. Transshipment in the port of Bar is bigger in 2020 than in 2019.
6. All RPs welcomed ERA's presentation on Challenges to operate night trains in Europe.
7. RPs welcomed presentation on the main outcomes of "INTER-CONNECT" project delivered by CEI.
8. Transport Community Permanent Secretariat announced 2 upcoming events in 2021, as the year of rail: Western Balkans Rail Summit in Serbia (4th of June, place tbc) that will gather political leaders of the region; and Summer school – 4-day training exercise for professionals and master students to gain experience in terms of project and policy, with guest speakers from the region and EU (mid-July, in Serbia, exact time and place tbc).
9. Ongoing activity:
Regarding improving safety on level crossings with mapping the most critical ones in the region, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat informed all participants that Serbia accepted to be applicant on behalf of all RPs to JASPERS. All RPs were invited to obtain positive feedback from all RSC members in order to proceed with the project.



Monitoring conditions of railway infrastructure: Transport Community Permanent Secretariat informed all participants that Serbia procured a special car for measuring. There are 2 models to use it for entire region: to rent it to other RPs, or to give it for free and in return allow Serbia to procure additional equipment with support of other participants from WB6. Once written position from Serbia is obtained, TC Permanent Secretariat will come to all RPs with more concrete proposals.

10. Next meetings of the Technical Committee on Railway: May and September 2021. Exact dates are to be confirmed. Besides, Transport Community's Social Forum is scheduled for 25th of February, main topics: Social legislation in the field of rail transport and Passenger rights in the rail transport.

