

9th Regional Steering Committee Meeting

8th October 2020

Venue: Online via Teams

Conclusions

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 9th RSC Meeting was held virtually, via Teams.
- All RSC Members were present during the meeting as well as additional representatives of DG NEAR and DG MOVE, and the EU Member States (Germany and Greece).

Adoption of the agenda – Agenda adopted without comments

A. Policy

COMMUNICATION ON ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT PLAN FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS

Conclusions:

- Gratitude was expressed to the European Commission for presentation of Communication on Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans with all accompanying documents. Furthermore, it was acknowledged that proposed policy actions are in line with Transport Community Treaty.
- **Action Point:** A meeting will be organized between the TCT Secretariat and the Commission (DG MOVE / DG NEAR) to agree on the follow-up steps in implementation of the Communication and accompanying documents.

ACTION PLANS

- I. Endorsement of Action plan for Roads
- II. Endorsement of Action plan for Rail
- III. Endorsement of Action plan for Road Safety
- IV. Endorsement of Action plan for Transport Facilitations (BCP/CCP)

Conclusions:

- No additional comments were given on the Road and Road Safety APs. Content of the Action Plans is therefore agreed with minor editorial changes in the texts.
- Kosovo* presented comments on one specific point in the Rail and Transport Facilitation APs. Comment will be sent in written as per agreed deadline. Content of the Action Plans for Rail and Transport Facilitation is therefore agreed on *all other* actions with minor editorial changes in the texts.
- Agreed steps:
 - By Friday 9th October EOD – RSC Members should provide comments on the APs as mentioned above.
 - By Monday, 12th October EOD – updated versions of APs will be circulated by the Secretariat.
 - A Written Procedure will be launched with a deadline for endorsement until 19th October in view of adoption on the 3rd Ministerial Council to be held on 26th October 2020.

**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.*

MEETINGS

I. Ministerial Council

Conclusion: Agenda adopted. Draft Ministerial Conclusion will be circulated together with the Action Plans.

II. Social Forum

Conclusion: Bilateral discussions between the Director of TCT and each RSC Member will be organized to agree on invitations for the Social Forum. Small change to the agenda of the Social Forum was agreed as proposed by the Chair of the RSC.

III. TCT Contact Group

Conclusions: Establishment of an informal Contact group agreed. The Contact Group should meet online every 2-3 weeks. Nominations to be communicated by Thursday, 15th October 2020 EOD by RSC members. On behalf of the EC, HoU Mr Harvey Rouse already nominated Mr Seamus Howard from DG MOVE during the meeting today.

IV. Informal Ministerial Meeting

Conclusions: RSC supported the proposal to organise a regular Informal Meeting on a yearly basis and agreed that the first Informal Ministerial Meeting is to be organised after the Covid-19 pandemic.

B. Administration

BUDGET AND FINANCE

I. Information regarding the process of financial report for the year 2019

Conclusions: Information adopted.

II. 2020 Budget – Report on contributions received

Conclusions: Revised report (indicating the currency) on 2020 Budget adopted.

III. First discussion about the proposal for the draft Budget 2021

Conclusions:

- The draft Budget for 2021 was presented to the RSC. In course of November it will be presented to the Council and EC will update the RSC and the Secretariat on the Council Meeting outcomes. Next RSC Meeting will be held before the end of the year 2020 in order to adopt the proposed Budget.
- The Budget Committee should be formed as soon as possible. Kosovo and Albania are invited to send their nominations according to the deadline (9th October 2020).
- The budget breakdown of all budget lines will be communicated in more detail to the Budget Committee in view of adoption at the RSC.

ADMINISTRATION

- I. Information regarding various administrative arrangements and obligations of the Transport Community

Conclusions:

- *Information regarding the five-year rolling work plan for the development of the indicative TEN-T* – Information and the proposed approach adopted with slight changes related to deadlines and the name of the report.
- *Information regarding the annual report on the implementation of the TEN-T* – Information and the proposed approach supported by the RSC and endorsement will be prepared for February 2021. In addition, exact dates for actions listed in the attachment should be removed and months should be kept.
- *Endorsement of the process of updating the Annex I of the TCT* – Proposed updating process of the Annex was adopted by the RSC as a yearly exercise. The timeframe agreed envisions that 1st September every year will be a cutoff date for updates of Annex. The aforementioned Annex I will be adopted by RSC and submitted to the Ministerial Council for their approval on the yearly basis.
- *Information regarding the process of setting up the Transport Observatory* – Proposed actions and tentative deadlines were presented and approved by the RSC.
- *Information regarding the recruitment* – The RSC was informed about the recruitment process in past year and supported the proposed approach outlined in the note. The presented gender balance was appreciated, while EC mentioned that the balance between EU and WB6 is encouraged for future recruitments. Proposed changes in the organigram were taken into account as follows:
 - The Rail position will be filled with an expert with legal background that will also be able to assist in other priority areas.
 - Changes related to the Multimodal position were accepted with a slight modification. Therefore, the position will be named as: Multimodal / Innovative / Green Transport Solutions DO
 - The Passenger Rights position was modified with the additional portfolio taken into the account the work of the Social Forum. Therefore, the position will be named as: Passenger Rights and Social issues DO.

C. AOB

- I. MoU with ERA
- II. MoU with Shift 2 Rail
- III. MoU with Energy Community

Conclusions:

- All 3 MoUs were accepted by the RSC.
- Information related to the joint workshop with the Energy Community Secretariat was welcomed and the Invitation will be communicated to the RSC in order to secure their participation.

- IV. Concept note for establishment of the Technical Committee for Transport of Dangerous Goods

Conclusion: The information was appreciated by the RSC and it was agreed that by the next meeting scheduled for November 2020, the Secretariat will present the official decision and the Rules on Procedure for this TC to be agreed by the RSC.

Other AoB Conclusions:

- Certificates of appreciation for the work and dedication of former Commissioner for Transport Ms Violeta Bulc and former Acting Director of Transport Community Permanent Secretariat Mr Alain Baron will be prepared by the Secretariat on behalf of all members of the RSC. This will be then given at the occasion organized by the RSC and supported by TC Secretariat.

Chair of the Regional Steering Committee

Mr Zoran Andric

