

TRANSPORT COMMUNITY
PERMANENT SECRETARIAT



ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT 2019

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BACKGROUND

The **Transport Community** is an international organisation in the field of mobility and transport, consisting of 33 participants – the entire EU and the six Western Balkans regional partners. We are working on the integration of 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.

This **Annual Operational Report** on the activities of the Transport Community outlines key actions and achievements in the period **from 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019**.



* 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.



SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

During the reporting period, notable progress was made in establishing the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat and undertaking other administrative issues such as staff recruitment, opening of bank account, status regulation of the TC Permanent Secretariat, enforcement of the Agreement regarding the seat of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat etc.

Appointment of the Interim Director of the TC Permanent Secretariat took place in January 2019. The recruitment process of the TC Permanent Secretariat started in the second half of 2019 and was completed with selection of the first five TC Permanent Secretariat employees.

In 2019, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat organised 3 Regional Steering Committee meetings (February, June and October), as well as several Technical Committee Meetings: 3 Technical Committee Meetings on Railways (May, September and November); 3 Technical Committee Meetings on Transport Facilitation (June, October and December) and 2 Technical Committee Meetings on Road Safety (October and December).



The Inauguration ceremony of the TC Permanent Secretariat premises took place on 13th September, 2019 in the presence of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, Ms. Ana Brnabic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia, Ms. Zorana Mihajlovic, EU Commissioner for Transport, Ms. Violeta Bulc and the Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia, Ambassador Sem Fabrizi.



KEY ACTIVITIES IN 2019

**RAIL, ROAD SAFETY AND
TRANSPORT FACILITATION**

**CONNECTIVITY MEASURES
AND THE ROAD SECTOR**

MAJOR MILESTONES IN 2019

RAIL, ROAD SAFETY AND TRANSPORT FACILITATION

The Transport Community Permanent Secretariat organised 8 Technical Committee Meetings in the course of 2019: three Technical Committees on Railways, two Technical Committees on Road Safety and three Technical Committees on Transport Facilitation. Such organisation required both technical preparation and administrative support, especially in establishing its structure, concept development and liaising with many different stakeholders.

In addition to that, the TC Permanent Secretariat contributed to the Western Balkans Summit in Poznan with preparation of a rail project fiche and other supporting documents for developing the regional Rail strategy and preparation of the 'Improving High Risk Road Sections – Black Spots' project fiche[1]. TC Permanent Secretariat supported the preparatory work of the High-Level Summit in Zagreb by identifying the regional long term projects and a list of small-scale projects on Joint Border Crossing points (JBCPs/CCPs) was prepared as a proposal.

Furthermore, TC Permanent Secretariat contributed to the preparatory activities for the Sherpas meetings in May and December, with the preparation of Progress report on the implementation of the Connectivity reform measures and handouts for all Regional Participants' implementation progress.

By the end of 2019 TC Permanent Secretariat managed to further strengthen its cooperation and communication channels with many EU Institutions, Agencies and IFIs such as DG MOVE, ERA, CER, S2R, EBRD, EIB, WB, CONNECTA and WBIF, aiming to make synergy on common goals.

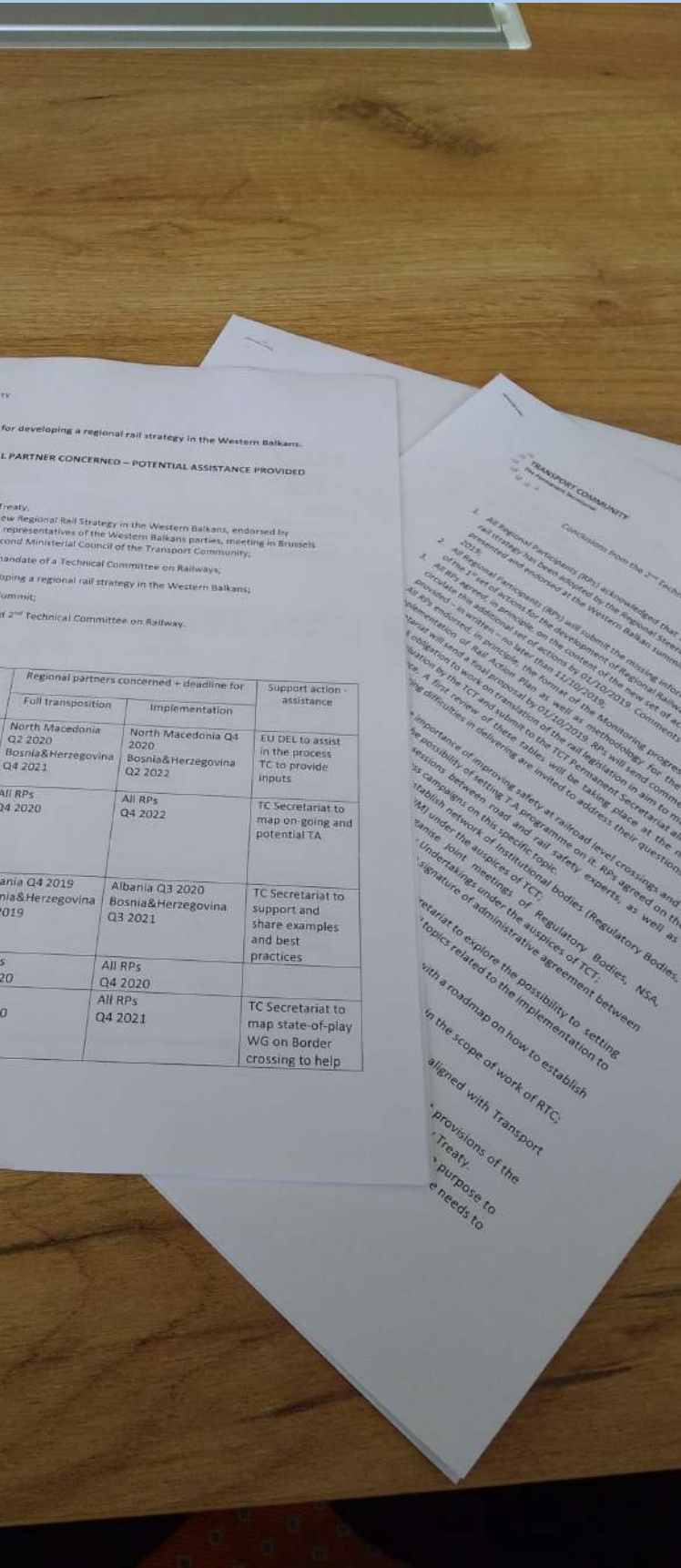
An assessment of the initial technical assistance needs in the area of transport facilitation was followed with drafting and finalizing a proposal for Technical Assistance (TA) and capacity building measures for the Technical Committee (TC).

Also various meetings have been prepared and organised: between TC Permanent Secretariat Interim Director and Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities in Sarajevo on the JBCPs state of play regarding potential financing; meetings on the comparison of proposed "mini Schengen" measures and TC Permanent Secretariat measures on transport facilitation.

Furthermore, TC Permanent Secretariat contributed to the EU document - Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

[1] https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Rail-fiche_final2806.pdf

CONNECTIVITY MEASURES AND THE ROAD SECTOR



The TCT Secretariat completed the assessment and review of the connectivity reform indicators and monitoring mechanism to assess legal transposition, its implementation, as well as to identify occurred obstacles.

Assessment of the road maintenance systems in the region and preparation of proposals following the recommendations of CONNECTA reports was performed, discussed and agreed by the Regional Steering Committee (RSC).

Assessment of the state of play of the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and its deployment in the region was finalised, including the existing e-tolling systems and identification of necessary actions to be undertaken.

The TC Permanent Secretariat continuously cooperated with various stakeholders, establishing liaison with IFIs on the gaps/difficulties faced during project planning/preparation and approval, as well as with DG NEAR, WBIF framework on the assessment of project applications.

Support has been provided to the regional participants on issues related to the Connectivity reform measures, road maintenance, ITS etc.

MAJOR MILESTONES IN 2019

The Technical Committee on Railways was established in May 2019. As a follow up of the TC on Railways, Regional Steering Committee endorsed the 1st set of actions on developing the Regional Rail Strategy, Road Safety Intervention as well as Joint Border Crossings/Common Crossings interventions.

The Rail Action Plan was adopted at technical level at the 3rd TC meeting on Railways[2], whereas the Road Safety Action Plan was adopted at technical level at the 2nd TC meeting on Road Safety[3].

The first Monitoring Progress Report on implementation of actions under the Rail Action Plan has been prepared and published.[4]

On 13th September 2019, an Administrative Arrangement with ERA had been signed during the Inauguration ceremony of the TC Permanent Secretariat premises.

TCT Secretariat prepared priority measures for improving operations and infrastructure at border and common crossing points (JBCPs/CCPs) at the Western Balkans Summit in Poznan – including preparation of project fiches, project list and justification.

It is also important to mention the preparation and approval of TA applications for two projects in the area of transport facilitation to be implemented under CONNECTA: 1) implementation of electronic queuing management systems (eQMS) and 2) detailed design of Joint Border/Common Crossing point facilities, including equipment on three pairs of BCPs.

At the level of the Technical Committee on Transport Facilitation, the Action Plan for Transport Facilitation was drafted, in consultation with national and international stakeholders.

[2]www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Final-conclusions-3rd-TC-on-Rail-1.pdf

[3]www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/RS-Measures-and-Action-Plan_V6.pdf

[4]www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Progress-Report-on-Implementation-of-Rail-Action-Plan-April-Update.pdf

ADMINISTRATION

In the reporting period, numerous activities in setting up of the TC Permanent Secretariat took place: In January (i) the TC Permanent Secretariat Budget for 2019 was adopted by the RSC (ii) Interim Director was appointed and (iii) the Agreement regarding the seat of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat was signed in Belgrade.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia, Ms. Zorana Mihajlovic, and the newly appointed Interim Director of the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community, Mr. Alain Baron, signed the Agreement regarding the seat of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat in the presence of the Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Serbia, Ambassador Sem Fabrizi. On 18th February 2019, the Agreement regarding the seat of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat was adopted as a Law by the Government of the Republic of Serbia and published in the Official Gazette (18/02/2019). The TCT Secretariat was registered as an international organisation within all relevant institutions; an abbreviation of the name – TCT Secretariat, ID No.: 17921304, Tax No.: 111305000, VAT Exempted.

In May the procedure for engagement of five (5) employees of the TCT Secretariat was successfully finalised. The Temporary Resident Permits and Working Permits were issued to officials who are not from Serbia. In recruitment process of the TCT Secretariat management and officials was launched in the second half of 2019.

The TC Permanent Secretariat bank account was opened at Raiffeisen Bank AD Beograd; EUR Bank Account: 265100000023061704 and RSD Bank Account 265111031000336686. In the reporting period, Regional Participants started to pay their Contributions for 2019.

The TC Permanent Secretariat webpage was launched and set up.

www.transport-community.org

[2]www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Final-conclusions-3rd-TC-on-Rail-1.pdf

[3]www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/RS-Measures-and-Action-Plan_V6.pdf

[4]www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Progress-Report-on-Implementation-of-Rail-Action-Plan-April-Update.pdf