

2nd meeting of Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods

Virtual Session via Microsoft Teams

26th February 2021 10:00-11:30

Conclusions

The proposed Agenda adopted. The Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods (TCTDG) chaired by the representative of North Macedonia took note of the announced absence of the representatives of Serbia, as well as the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* and Montenegro.

The TCTDG welcomed the presentation by DG MOVE on Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy adopted by the European Commission on 9 December 2020. The Strategy identifies 82 concrete initiatives in 10 key areas for action (“flagships”) each with concrete measures such as increasing the uptake of zero-emission vehicles; making sustainable alternative solutions available to the public & businesses; supporting digitalization & automation; improving connectivity & access. The strategy provides concrete actions how to make European transport climate neutral by 2050.

The European Commission encouraged regional participants to align with the milestones set out in the Strategy, and to develop a common strategy for Western Balkan 6.

The Director of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat informed the participants that the Permanent Secretariat initiated the process of developing the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for the Western Balkans perspective. This will provide a general guidance and define regional objectives and actions to promote greening of transport and implementation of Green Agenda as well as EC Sustainable and Smart mobility strategy targets in Western Balkans. The strategy will be drafted jointly by all Regional Participants and active involvement of the European Commission in close consultation with all relevant stakeholders, the region can establish common objectives and a harmonized approach in making transport greener, more sustainable and healthier for our citizens.

- Where is Western Balkans region now in relation to Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy (SSMS) milestones?
- Western Balkans future plans in relation to the milestones of the strategy (according to national strategies, master plans, planned projects, etc.)?

Albania - presented an extensive list of ongoing activities related to several flagships of the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy -

- EUDEL Tirana is regularly consulted on drafting of the National transport strategy 2021-2027 (ongoing process). The Combined transport strategy 2021-2026 was finalized in February 2021 and an Interurban transport and urban green mobility plan for more sustainable was set up for 2019-2023.
- Intermodal transport strategy from Project with the EU MS, Albania, Croatia, Italia, Greece, Montenegro and Slovenia is successfully finished.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

- Greening freight transport rolling stock and offering sustainable delivery choices are constant of the planned development of the sector in Albania.
- To that end there is a constant review through consultation with the industry IT interoperable data sharing in order to establish a scheme under the cyber security certification framework on the automatic vehicles and digitalization.
- Albania will include a multimodal ticketing initiative in its next steps.
- There is a constant effort to support innovation, AI data for its smart mobility and to implement the Innovation Programs.
- The Government is developing and renews R&I partnerships, while stimulating Academia and industry alike to cooperate.
- During 2021, Albania plans to establish joint investigation authority for accidents and incidents on railway and maritime transport.
- The representative of Albania also mentioned that at the joint railway border station with Montenegro in Tuzi performing joint/single freight controls of by two border authorities, dangerous goods transport are being checked too.
- The contribution on the current state of play and future plans has been sent to Transport Community Permanent Secretariat.

North Macedonia -

- current national strategy does not embrace the implementation of 10 key milestones of the strategy.
- The largest part of the national fleet consists of Euro 6 vehicles, and once carbon neutral vehicles will be made available on the market it is expected that the industry will keep up the same pace. However, a need of further training and specialization was identified as a key aspect in development of human resources.

Transport Community Permanent Secretariat expressed gratitude to both regional representatives for active participation. At the same time the Delegations were invited to consider further investments and promotion of activities related to transport of dangerous goods - not only in their national transport strategies, but also within other policy documents that could push forward/promote additional financial support - e.g., a) environmental national plans, b) industrial development strategies etc.

Transport Community Permanent Secretariat congratulated Albania on provided information regarding common checks on transport of dangerous goods organised in cooperation with Montenegro and indicated this as an example of good practice that could be advertised further in the region.

The Commission also congratulated Albania for the ongoing efforts to develop transport coherently. It encouraged regional partners to invest further human and financial resources in this field and to stimulate cross-sectoral cooperation in order to develop coherently policies across sectors and to ensure high standards of safety and security for transport in general and, in particular, for carriage of dangerous goods.

Transport Community Permanent Secretariat invited regional representatives to express their interest in attending an online EUR-lex training organised by EU Publications office. Regional representatives should communicate their interest to the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community by 5 March 2021.

Both Transport Community Permanent Secretariat and the Commission expressed regret of the absence of representatives of several partners, stating that their active involvement in this Committees' work is highly recommended.

Upcoming session is planned for 5 May 2021.