

Transport facilitation -activity brief- (January-May 2021)

8th Technical Committee on Transport Facilitation

10.05.2021, via Teams

Transport Facilitation activities-update

- Little progress in implementation of the Transport Facilitation Action Plan

Road BCPs

- Bilateral agreement drafted between ALB and MKD
- Joint BCP Vracenovici (between BIH and MNE) opened and in operation
- Few pairs of BCPs under consideration for joint border management (no agreements drafted/negotiated yet)
 - Hani i Elezit/Blace (KOS/MKD) – bilateral agreement to be drafted and negotiated; model to be discussed among the parties; joint inter-institutional group to be created
 - BCPs between ALB and MNE- model for joint operations to be discussed between the parties ; MNE members of the inter-institutional group need to be appointed
- some upgrade/modernization projects ongoing on some BCPs- to be duly reported by RPs for accurate findings in the Progress Report

Transport Facilitation activities-update

Rail BCPs

- No new rail agreements initiated/negotiated in the period January-May
 - Joint rail station Bijelo Polje (MNE/SRB)- construction works to start mid 2021
 - Joint rail station Tabanovci (MKD/SRB)- status – start of construction delayed
 - Joint rail station Hani i Elezit (KOS/MKD)- could start with joint operations as soon as the operational protocol between Customs authorities are signed- **deadline: 30 June 2021**
 - Pending reactions from EUMS on the initiatives from WB6 for bilateral rail agreements
- Negotiating and signing of bilateral agreements for joint/one stop controls is an objective both from the Transport Facilitation Action Plan and the Common Regional Market plan- an *evident progress* is expected by the Berlin summit

TCT Secretariat coordination activities

- Facilitated discussions with all EUMS :
 - HR Rulebook on mandatory transit routes for trucks (closure of some BCPs between HR and SRB and the likely impact on the BCP Batrovci/Bajakovo
 - Status of the new BCPs Gradiska and Svilaj (not in operation yet) between BIH and HR
 - Bottlenecks created at Bogorodica/Evzoni (MKD/EL) , and to less extent at Kakavia/Ktismata (ALB/EL)- situation improved
 - Rail BCP agreements between RO/SRB and EL/MKD-pending answers
- Facilitated bilateral technical discussions between MNE/ALB and KOS/MKD at the shared BCPs, and advisory role of the TCT Secretariat – welcomed approach by the Parties; other missions to be organized soon
- Observations and conclusions from the visits:
 - room for improvement of the operations on Sukobin/Muriqan, Hani i Hotit/Bozaj and Hani i Hotit/Elezit
 - The joint rail station in Hani i Elezit could be put in function without further delays
 - Informal observation: the one stop control does not function in outbound direction SRB-MKD on Presevo/Tabanovci

TCT Secretariat support activities

- **TA** is proposed under CONNECTA for **preparation of technical documentation** (design) for infrastructure improvement, equipment and IT of several pairs of road BCPs
 - Consultation with RSC and NEAR
 - Coordination with EC and IFIs on investments under WBIF
 - TCT Secretariat will further instruct CONNECTA to mobilize the assistance
 - The final list of BCPs to be supported depends on the urgency and level of maturity of the prospects for joint /one stop controls
- **TA for capacity building** is foreseen under the TCT budget
 - legal assistance in drafting operational manuals
 - preparation of training programmes and
 - providing trainings to the central institutions and border agencies' staff members (to be also performed jointly for the benefit of the neighbouring border staff)
- BCP waiting times **monitoring activities**
 - current model of gathering information through national contact points-challenging regarding timely delivery and accuracy of data
 - Introduction of real time data on BCP waiting times needed- GSA Galileo app.

Green Lanes

- **Intra-WB6 Green Lanes- extended to all intra-WB6 BCPs-** agreed priority goods (food, animal feed and medicines) will get priority passage across whole region, which was the case at the designated Green Lanes BCPs until now
- **EU-WB6 Green Lanes-** progress:

1	Border-crossing points between the EU and Western Balkans parties where the green lanes concept (regime of priority crossing for defined goods) will apply	Agreed
2	Designate contact points from the CEFTA parties and EU Member States to follow and report on the implementation of Green Corridors/Lanes	Agreed
3	List of medical supplies and equipment eligible for priority passage	Agreed
4	Harmonisation of working hours of the agencies involved in clearance of goods	Ongoing
5	Introducing a monitoring mechanism to provide real time data on the travel and waiting times, as well as traffic management systems for reducing queues	Ongoing
6	<u>Establish electronic exchange of pre-arrival information</u> with the neighbouring EU Member States (technical note shared with partners/five EU MS)	Pending

