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)
  o 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
  o 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:

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