



ACTION PLAN FOR WATERBORNE TRANSPORT AND MULTIMODALITY

TRANSPORT COMMUNITY PERMANENT SECRETARIAT



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Waterborne transport has clear benefits in terms of environmental impact, reduced congestion, lower costs and increased efficiency of transport operations. The investments in waterborne transport in the Western Balkans so far have been significantly lower compared to investments in other modes of transport.

We need to make waterborne transport in the Western Balkans reliable, competitive and sustainable, by supporting the deployment and implementation of digital solutions and green concepts in ports.

The promotion of multimodal transport solutions and modal shift, through targeted policies, including investment in inland waterways and maritime ports will give Regional Partners possibilities for new development and growth. On the path to green recovery of the Western Balkans, water is the way to go.

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1.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the document is to provide a list of short and medium-term activities aiming at addressing critical issues in waterborne transport (Maritime affairs, Inland waterways and ports) as well as multimodality aspects and promote their efficient use by targeting appropriate measures¹.

The Action Plan was developed in consultative process and cooperation with the Regional Partners (Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo², Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia) and is in line with already approved Action Plans on Road, Road Safety, Rail and Transport Facilitation³. The Action Plan was developed in parallel with the document Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for Western Balkans and the related roadmap. Proper alignment and harmonisation of the two documents and the actions contained therein was ensured in the process.

The Action Plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality is referring to the following documents:

- Transport Community Treaty, Article 13. and 14.
- Transport Community Treaty, ANNEX I.4, ANNEX I.5
- \bullet Strategic Framework for implementation of ITS $^4\,$ on TEN-T Core/Comprehensive Network on the WB6 Final report 5
- Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans
- Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans
- Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy putting European transport on track for the future
- Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for Western Balkans and the corresponding Roadmap

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¹Transport Community Permanent Secretariat is not directly dealing with projects, but will try to assist the Regional Partners in defining the list of priorities of infrastructural and operational interventions to ensure the full transposition of the European acquis

² This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence. ³The approved versions of the 4 action plans can be found on the following link https://www.transport-community.org/action-plans/.

⁴ Intelligent Transport Systems.

⁵ TA to Connectivity in the Western Balkans , EuropeAid/137850/IH/SER/MULTI , Sub-Project, Code: CONNECTA-TRA-CRM-REG-03 Area: Connectivity Transport Reform Measures, 10th December 2018.

2.

WATERBORNE TRANSPORT AND MULTIMODALITY ACTION PLAN – CONTENT

This Action Plan identifies actions with clear benefits in terms of greater usage of waterborne and multimodal transport in order to increase efficiency of transport operations and to achieve lower environmental impact, reduced congestion and lower transport costs. It covers the sections of maritime, inland waterways, ports, and multimodality. The Action Plan sets out priorities in both policy and infrastructural parts of waterborne transport and multimodality, by dividing actions according to legislation (in line with the Annex I.4 and I.5 of the Transport Community Treaty)⁶, and infrastructure, digital, and green elements.

By committing to the implementation of this Action Plan, the Regional Partners will strive towards creating stronger multimodal transport systems and modal shift, as well increasing the waterborne dimension of the transport eco system, through targeted policies and investments. Waterborne transport and Multimodality Action Plan covers the period 2021 -2025.

⁶Under point (a) of Article 20(3) of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community ("TCT"), the Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community can adopt decisions revising Annex1 to the TCT. A significant amount of new legal acts of the European Union have been adopted in areas covered by the TCT since its signature on 9 October 2017, whereas other legal acts have been repealed or are no longer in force. Annex I will therefore be revised to reflect these changes and this Action plan will be modified accordingly.



MARITIME TRANSPORT AND MARITIME PORTS





MARITIME TRANSPORT AND MARITIME PORTS

2.1.1. List of actions related to legislation applicable to Maritime Transport and maritime ports

The regional partners are required to prioritise the transposition of the mentioned legislation applicable to maritime transport, in the short to medium term, to align systems of each Regional Partner with the required European acts. The Mentioned legislation set out in the table below is of particular importance for Montenegro and Albania.⁷

No.	LEGISLATION APPLICABLE TO MARITIME TRANSPORT	Planned quarter and year for transposition	Support action - assistance
1.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Maritime policy as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community	1Q 2023	
2.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Access to the market as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport com- munity	2Q 2023	
3.	Legislation related to the regulatory area International Agree- ments as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community	1Q 2023	
4.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Ship inspection and survey organisations - recognised organisations as per Annex 1.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	2Q 2023	Transport Community Permanent Secretariat
5.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Port State control as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	2Q 2022	and TAIEX assistance
6.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Vessel traffic moni- toring as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	3Q 2022	w h e r e needed and appropriate
7.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Marine equipment as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	2Q 2023	
8.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Passenger ships as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community).	3Q 2022	
9.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Oil tankers as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	2Q 2022	

⁷For Regional partners which do not have maritime transport, the planned deadlines for transposition may be revised during implementation.

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No.	LEGISLATION APPLICABLE TO MARITIME TRANSPORT	Planned quarter and year for transposition	Support action - assistance
10.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Bulk carriers as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	3Q 2023	
11.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Insurance as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	2Q 2022	
12.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Ship-source pollution as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	2Q 2023	
13.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Organotin compounds as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	2Q 2023	
14.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Maritime Security as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	2Q 2023	
15.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Training of seafarers as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	2Q 2022	Transport Community
16.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Social aspects as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	1Q 2023	Permanent Secretariat
17.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Sea and inland water- way as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	2Q 2023	and TAIEX assistance where needed and
18.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Transportable pres- sure equipment as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	3Q 2023	appropriate
19.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Port services ⁸ (Regulation (EU) 2017/352 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 February 2017 establishing a framework for the provision of port services and common rules on the financial transparency of ports	4Q 2024	
20.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Reporting formalities (Directive 2010/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from ports of the Member States and repealing Directive 2002/6/EC (OJ EU L 283, 29.10.2010, p. 1) as per Annex I.4. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	4Q 2025	



2.1.2. List of actions related to Infrastructure, digital and green elements of maritime ports

The proposed set of actions in Maritime and ports are related to infrastructure, digital and green element and outline clear and specific interventions which are important for upgrade of existing and building of new infrastructure as well as introduction of digital and green concepts in ports. The actions set out in the table below are applicable only for Montenegro (Port of Bar) and Albania (Port of Durres). Both mentioned ports are core maritime ports of the extended TEN-T network.

No.	ACTIONS RELATED TO INFRASTRUCTURE, DIGITAL, AND GREEN ELEMENTS OF SEA PORTS	Deadline for Implementation	Support action - assistance
1.	Improvement of the interoperability of IT systems and solutions in ports including the development and/or improvement of Port Community System (PCS) as a continuation of the deliverables of finished INTERREG projects	Q2 2022	Transport Community Permanent Secretariat
2.	Purchase and installation of equipment for the improvement of the process efficiency and effectiveness in ports	Q4 2023	Transport Community Permanent Secretariat
3.	Strengthening human resources and institutional capacities of port operators by establishing Centre of excellence in Maritime affairs	Q4 2021	E M S A , T A I E X , Transport Community Permanent Secretariat
4.	Developing concepts of "green ports" to improve the envi- ronmental sustainability of the ports including availability of alternative fuels	4Q 2022	Transport Community Permanent Secretariat



No.	ACTIONS RELATED TO INFRASTRUCTURE, DIGITAL, AND GREEN ELEMENTS OF SEA PORTS	Deadline for Implementation	Support action - assistance
5.	Establishment and/or upgrading of the current community vessel traffic monitoring and information system (VTMIS)	4Q 2023	Transport Community Permanent Secretariat
6.	Dredging and expansion of the capacity of ports for trans-ship- ment	4Q 2022	Transport Community Permanent Secretariat

INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT AND PORTS

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INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT AND PORTS



2.2.1. List of actions related to legislation applicable to inland waterway transport⁹

The regional partners are required to prioritize the transposition of the mentioned legislation applicable to inland waterways, in the short to medium term, to align their own systems with the required European acts. The mentioned legislation is of particular importance for Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.¹⁰

No.	LEGISLATION APPLICABLE TO INLAND WATERWAYS	Planned quarter and year for transposition	Support action - assistance
1.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Access to the market as per Annex I.5. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	Q4 2023	
2.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Access to the profession as per Annex I.5. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	Q4 2022	Transport
3.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Boatmasters' certifi- cates ¹¹ (Directive (EU) 2017/2397 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on the recognition of profes- sional qualifications in inland navigation and repealing Council Di- rectives 91/672/EEC and 96/50/EC as per Annex I.5. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	Q2 2023	Community Permanent Secretariat and TAIEX assistance w h e r e
4.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Safety/technical re- quirements as per Annex I.5. of the Treaty establishing the Trans- port community.	Q4 2023	needed and appropriate
5.	Legislation related to the regulatory area River information ser- vices as per Annex I.5. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	Q4 2022	

^{*}For Bosnia and Herzegovina, development of legislative and regulatory framework is rudimentary and further efforts are needed to develop the institutional, legal and regulatory estup of waterway transport in Bosnia and Herzegovina. To ensure the safety of navigation on inland waterways, it is advised to adopt the law on state level regarding Inland waterways transport, as a precondition for transposition of the mentioned legislation.

¹¹This Directive is not part of the Annex I.5. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community

¹⁰For Regional partners which do not have inland waterways transport, the planned deadlines for transposition may be revised during implementation.



No.	LEGISLATION APPLICABLE TO INLAND WATERWAYS	Planned quarter and year for transposition	Support action - assistance
6.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Environment as per Annex I.5. of the Treaty establishing the Transport community.	Q4 2023	
7.	Legislation related to the regulatory area Sea and inland wa- terways as per Annex I.5. of the Treaty establishing the Trans- port community.	Q4 2022	Transport Community Permanent Secretariat and TAIEX
8.	Obtain observer status in the European Commission Expert groups related to Inland waterway transport policy issues: NAIADES, Social matters, Technical requirements for vessels, DINA/RIS.	Q2 2021	
9.	Obtain observer status in the working groups of CESNI-Europe- an Committee for drawing up standards in the field of inland navigation - 3 working groups on CESNI/PT (technical require- ments), CESNI/QP (professional qualifications) and CESNI/TI (information technology)	Q2 2021	
10.	Formal request by the relevant Regional Partners to EC for recognition of their systems, in order to get formal recognition of professional certificates issued	Q2 2021	assistance where needed and
11.	Prepare overview of status of IWW by country: size of the mar- ket (number of vessels, number of professional crew members, competent authorities; status of preparations for the request for recognition under Directive /2017/2397)	Q2 2021	appropriate
12.	Prepare overview of the status of the alignment of the national legislation with the latest legislation on the technical requirements for inland vessels, Directive 2016/1629	Q3 2021	
13.	Prepare overview of the actual institutional framework and administrative capacities for the inland waterway sector with planned actions to overcome the identified obstacles	Q3 2021	

2.2.2.

2.2.2. List of actions related to infrastructure, navigability, digital and green elements of inland waterway ports

The proposed set of actions in inland waterways are related to infrastructure, navigability, and digital and green elements and outline clear and specific interventions which are important for increasing the competitiveness of the inland waterways. The Mentioned actions are applicable only for Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and their ports, with the focus on core ports of the extended TEN-T core network, notably ports Belgrade and Novi Sad in Serbia and ports Brčko and Bosanski Šamac in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

No.	ACTIONS RELATED TO INFRASTRUCTURE AND DIGITAL, SOCIAL AND GREEN ELEMENTS OF INLAND WATERWAYS	Deadline for Implementation	Support action - assistance
1.	Demining of the potential worksites at the right bank of the Sava River (WBIF grant)	4Q 2022	
2.	Reconstruction and upgrade of the port capacities and purchas- ing of related equipment	1Q 2025	
3.	Developing concepts and studies for shore-side power supply and alternative clean fuel supply facilities (e.g. LNG)	2Q 2023	Transport Community Permanent
4.	Developing of studies for improving the navigability of Sava and Danube river	3Q 2023	
5.	Developing studies for digital solutions in ports to increase the efficiency of processes	2Q 2024	Secretariat
6.	Addressing critical bottlenecks on the Danube river with appropriate measures (dredging) in line with the Flagship 1-CONNECTING EAST TO WEST of the Economic and Investment plan for the Western Balkans	4Q 2022	

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MULTIMODALITY

2.3.1. List of actions related to legislation in the area of multimodal transport

The proposed legislation is not part of the Annex I of the Treaty establishing the Transport community but are very relevant in terms of their multimodal dimension.

No.	LEGISLATION APPLICABLE TO MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT	Planned quarter and year for transposition	Support action - assistance
1.	COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/106/EEC of 7 December 1992 on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods between Member States ¹²	Q4 2025	Transport Community Permanent
2.	Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2020 on electronic freight transport information (OJ L 249, 31.7.2020, p. 33).	Q4 2025	Secretariat and TAIEX assistance w h e r e needed and appropriate

2.3.2. List of actions related to infrastructural investments in multimodality

The proposed set of actions outlines interventions which are important for further development of multimodality and are in line with the approved Transport Facilitation Action Plan.

No.	DEFINITION OF ACTIONS RELATED TO INFRASTRUCTURE INTERVENTIONS RELATED TO MULTIMODALITY	Deadline for Implementation	Support action - assistance
1.	Infrastructure improvement or expansion of the road and rail last- mile connections within and outside the node areas	Q4 2023	Transport
2.	Construction of the Intermodal terminals and purchase of related equipment ¹³	Q3 2023	Community Permanent Secretariat
3.	Introduction of digital solutions to improve multimodality	Q1 2022	Secretariat

¹²Taking into account that in the ANNEX to the COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on the European Green Deal it is mentioned that the Revised proposal for a Directive on Combined transport will be presented in 2021, the regional partners can choose to transpose the current Directive, or to transpose the Revised Directive once it will be adopted.

¹³This action may not apply to terminals owned by private companies.

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