



## 4<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE TRANSPORT COMMUNITY

Brdo pri Kranju, 5 July 2021

### Presidency Conclusions

#### *INTRODUCTION*

- The Ministerial Council meeting was opened by Matej Zakonjšek, Director of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, chaired by Minister Vojin Mitrović and co-chaired by Ms Maja Bakran Marčić, Deputy Director-General (DG MOVE)
- The Ministerial Council approved the agenda of the meeting.

#### THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE TRANSPORT COMMUNITY,

1. Welcomes the progress achieved towards the full implementation of the Transport Community Treaty (TCT) and declares its full commitment to continue efforts to that end.
2. Acknowledges the efforts of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat to ensure its coordinating and monitoring role in cooperation with the regional partners, as well as the valuable technical work achieved by the technical committees.
3. Reaffirms its commitment to enact the conclusions of the previous sessions of the Ministerial Council, action plans<sup>1</sup> and declarations<sup>2</sup> endorsed by the Transport Ministers of the South East European Parties.

#### *SMART AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY STRATEGY*

4. Welcomes the presentation of the EU's Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy by Ms Maja Bakran Marčić, Deputy Director-General (DG MOVE).
5. Agrees to do its utmost so that the Western Balkans keeps pace with the EU and aligns its ambition for a fundamental sustainable and smart transport transformation.
6. Welcomes the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility in the Western Balkans and emphasises the necessity to work towards decarbonisation and greening of transport in the region.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.transport-community.org/action-plans/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Road-Safety-Declaration-for-Western-Balkan.pdf>  
<https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Declaration-Rail-Strategy-Western-Balkans.pdf>



7. Works towards the implementation of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility in the Western Balkans remains on its agenda and that follow-up measures per each regional party will be agreed.
8. References regional objectives and measures mentioned in the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility in the Western Balkans during the review/creation of their National Transport Strategies.
9. Encourages the development of a cost-effectiveness analysis of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility in the Western Balkans and elaboration of detailed action plans per each regional party.
10. Encourages the South East European Parties to implement the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility in the Western Balkans and to allocate the necessary resources for the timely achievement of the objectives that are set out therein.

#### *GREEN LANES and BORDERS*

11. Reiterates the importance of the joint proposal from the Permanent Secretariats of the TCT and CEFTA to establish Green Lanes between the Western Balkans and the EU Member States to ensure smooth transport flows between the EU and the Western Balkans during the pandemic, in line with Commission Communication on upgrading the transport Green Lanes<sup>3</sup>.
12. Confirms the intentions to enhance the process of establishing one stop controls on the intra-Western Balkans' border/common crossing points in line with the Transport Facilitation Action Plan and the Common Regional Market Plan, aiming at reducing border delays, improving cross-border and regional trade, and increasing the region's competitiveness.
13. Acknowledges and expresses its gratitude for the invaluable work of transport workers who continue to work tirelessly to deliver essential goods during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

#### *ACTION PLAN FOR WATERBORNE TRANSPORT AND MULTIMODALITY*

14. Welcomes the endorsement of the Action Plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality and emphasises its clear benefits in terms of environmental impact, reduced congestion, lower costs, and increased efficiency of transport operations.

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<sup>3</sup> COM(2020) 685 final



15. Declares its full commitment to the promotion of multimodal transport solutions and modal shift, through targeted policies, including investment in inland waterways and maritime ports as anticipated in the action plan, as achievement of these targets will give regional partners possibilities for new development and growth.
16. Encourages South East European Parties to allocate the necessary resources for the timely achievement of the objectives that are set in the Action Plan.

#### *REVIEW OF ANNEX I*

17. Endorses the Decision to revise Annex I of the Transport Community Treaty.
18. Encourages the Regional Steering Committee to do utmost to ensure its implementation and to exchange information on the newly adopted legislation that has been added to the scope of the Treaty.

#### *SOCIAL FORUM*

19. Welcomes the conclusions of the first and second Social Forum and supports it in its endeavour to reinforce and promote social dialogue in the transport sector and to implement the social policy legislation which is the pillar of a fair, inclusive, and thriving transport sector.
20. Acknowledges the Conclusions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Social Forum that focused on social issues in rail.
21. Reconfirms that the Western Balkans region needs to implement the EU social policy listed in the Transport Community Treaty and provide higher social standards, improve staff safety, attract new staff, manage ageing work force, and recruit young people and provide a proper gender balance.
22. Commits to call on all relevant authorities to make further efforts to improve the current situation to transpose and fully implement regulation on rail passenger rights and obligations.
23. Recognises that digitalisation and modernisation will bring challenges (ageing workforce, staff shortage, competition with other modes), therefore a credible path for the fair transition for transport workers is needed.

#### *THE TRANS-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT NETWORK (TEN-T)*

24. Acknowledges the fact that infrastructure development is – together with EU transport acquis transposition - one of the main two pillars the Transport Community is being built upon.



25. Recognises that the overarching aim of infrastructure development alongside TEN-T routes is to strengthen the social, economic, and territorial cohesion between the South East European Parties and the European Union, with the goal to ultimately improve citizens lives.
26. Re-affirms the commitment of the South East European Parties towards the obligation set-forth under Article 8.2 of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community to support the development of the indicative TEN-T extension of the comprehensive and core networks to the Western Balkans.
27. Welcomes the Annual Report on TEN-T implementation in the Western Balkans and acknowledges the work undertaken in this regard by the Technical Committees and the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community.
28. Takes due note of the progress achieved by the region in achieving TEN-T standards compliance and welcomes the ambitious TEN-T development program currently on-going.
29. Commits to strengthen actions towards timely and coordinated implementation of the TEN-T network in full observation of the time limits contained in the relevant legislation.

#### *ROAD SAFETY*

30. Welcomes the establishment of the first phase of the Road Safety Observatory for the Western Balkans region as a new opportunity for governments in the region to work with their partners in public health, transport, law enforcement, civil society, and the private sector to promote targeted interventions to reduce the number of deaths and injuries on the roads.
31. Expresses its hope that the Road Safety Observatory will effectively gather policy and decision makers across the region to set the future direction for road safety actions and will support the region in boosting the regional participants' capacity to collect, analyse, and share reliable road crash data. Encourages relevant authorities of the South East European Parties to strive to attain the objective of drastically reducing the number of road deaths and crash injuries in the region as soon as possible.
32. Supports the first regional project dedicated to rail-road level crossings safety improvement aiming to significantly decreasing the number of fatalities and injuries at rail-road level crossings in the region.



*WESTERN BALKANS RAIL SUMMIT*

33. Welcomes the upcoming event related to the European Year of Rail (Western Balkans Rail Summit) aiming to improve rail connections and connectivity of railways in the region.
34. Welcomes the intention to establish of the regional network of railway infrastructure managers and hopes that this network will enhance regional cooperation in terms of better traffic planning, infrastructure maintenance and investments.

*CLOSING*

35. Agrees at the next Ministerial meeting to take stock of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Transport Community Treaty and to discuss revision of the Trans-European Transport Network and its indicative extension into the Western Balkans, including core network, core network corridors and pre-identified priority projects for infrastructure investment.
36. Conveys appreciation to Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and to Minister Jernej Vrtovec specifically for hosting the Ministerial Council of the Transport Community in Brdo pri Kranju.
37. Congratulates Minister Vojin Mitrović, the President of the Ministerial Council and his team for his invaluable work in advancing the Transport Community objectives during the past year.
38. Welcomes Minister Liburn Aliu in his new position of the President of the Ministerial Council.

Done in Brdo pri Kranju, on 5 July 2021

For the Ministerial Council,

The President

Mr Vojin Mitrović,

Minister of Communications and Transport

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vojin Mitrović", written over the printed name and title.