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# SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN PARTIES DEDICATION TO RAIL

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THE FUTURE IS ON TRACKS



SEPTEMBER 13, 2021  
WESTERN BALKANS RAIL SUMMIT  
Belgrade

# South East European Parties Dedication to Rail

Western Balkans Rail Summit, Belgrade 2021

**Noting** that the South East European Parties are striving for a rail system which is safe, inclusive, reliable, environmentally and socially sustainable, and interconnected within the region and with European Union (EU);

**Recalling** that the Transport Ministers of the six regional partners of the Transport Community endorsed the Joint declaration for a new Regional Rail Strategy in 2018;

**Recognising/Praising** the recently endorsed Rail Action Plan that sets the starting point for further modernisation of railways in the region and is an incentive for further strengthening the integration of the regional railway networks with the EU;

**Underlining** the basic principles of the EU Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy, that the transport system of the future needs to be green smart sustainable inclusive and social and being fully aware that there is a need to converge in terms of objectives with the EU;

**Bearing in mind** that the EU adopted a comprehensive Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans will support the infrastructure development and the upgrade of the railway system;

**Considering** that while establishing an efficient, connected and sustainable transport network, intermodal solutions need to be implemented;

**Noting** the need to perform sufficient background work and to focus on priority areas in the rail transport sector, the South East European Parties and reconfirm their commitment to achieve the goal;

**Hereby, the Transport Ministers of the South East European Parties of the Transport Community, meeting at the Rail Summit in Belgrade on 13 September 2021, reconfirm their commitment to modernise rail.**

*Therefore, they commit to:*

- Re-establish direct intercity express train connections between major cities in the Western Balkans and with the EU to establish better connectivity for businesses and people.
- Enhance digitalisation of the railway systems to interconnect and enable exchange of data for cross border passenger and freight transport by the end of 2025.
- Facilitate the development of compatible intelligent transport systems with a view to achieve safer better and interoperable railways in the region according to EU Technical Specifications for Interoperability.
- Take the necessary measures to increase the safety of level crossings and to decrease by 50% the number of accidents by the end of 2025.
- Increase the number of multimodal terminals by the end of 2025 with the aim to facilitate better, faster, and more efficient traffic flows.
- Establish interoperable electronic register and management system of railway infrastructure (RINF) all over the region by the end of 2022 that should be compatible with the EU systems.
- Establish interoperable Electronic Vehicle Register (EVR) in all regional partners by Q1 2022 that would facilitate compatibility of the rolling stock with EU standards.
- Opening of rail market (set under Article 3 of the Protocols I – VI of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community) by 2022 to reap the benefit of fair competition and aim to open the regional market by 2025 as a first step towards achieving the obligations set under the Transport Community Treaty.
- Conclude “One Stop Go” agreements between all regional partners and with EU Neighbouring countries for all Rail Border Crossings by Q4 2023 in order to facilitate border crossing procedures for passengers and freight, in accordance with Rail Action Plan
- Commit to build railway lines according to the latest Technical Interoperability Standards (EU TSIs) and TEN-T specifications starting from 2022.

*The Transport Ministers invite industry in cooperation with civil society to engage in ensuring that new services and systems are secure, compatible, interoperable and at the European level.*

*The Transport Ministers highlight the importance of continuous work and cooperation on rail system improvement and take note of the contributions and commitments made by stakeholders prior to and during the Western Balkans Rail Summit 2021.*

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H.E. Belinda Balluku

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H.E. Vojin Mitrović

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H.E. Liburn Aliu

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H.E Blagoj Bochvarski

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H.E. Tomislav Momirović