

The month of August was dedicated to **preparations for the First Western Balkans Rail Summit**, which will take place in Belgrade on 13 September. The main deliverables of the summit will be the **Dedication to Rail** signed by ministers in charge of transport and the **Memorandum of Understanding** between railway infrastructure managers in the Western Balkans committing the region to strive towards a rail system which is interoperable, safe, environmentally sustainable, and interconnected within the region and with European Union (EU). In 2021, the European Year of Rail, the Transport Community will promote rail in the region and better rail connections between Regional Partners, as well as rail connections with EU neighbouring countries. On 26 August, during a productive meeting dedicated to railway Corridor VIII connecting North Macedonia with



Bulgaria, the Transport Community and the European Investment Bank discussed what can be done so that this project is delivered according to agreed timelines.

On 27 August, Director of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat Mr Matej Zakonjšek met in Kosovo*¹ with the Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Mr Librun Aliu. The two



interlocutors reviewed **progress on implementation of Transport Community's Action Plans and the Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility for the Western Balkans** and discussed strengthening of cooperation on **cross border connectivity in the region and with the EU**.

On 9 August, when the UN published its Climate Change Report²), the Transport Community highlighted the potential of transport to reverse the negative effects of climate change. Goals mentioned in the Transport Community's **Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility in the Western Balkans** can contribute to the goal of halting an increase of temperatures in the region.

The French Development Agency (AFD) for Western Balkans is financial supporting numerous projects that will benefit the region.

On 24 August, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat met with the AFD Director for Western Balkans Ms Dominique Hautbergue to discuss areas for possible cooperation and to present the TCT Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility.



STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE AND SMART MOBILITY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

TRANSPORT COMMUNITY TREATY PERMANENT SECRETARIAT'S
STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

JULY 2021

¹ *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

² <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/210809.htm>