



Transport Community

12th Regional Steering Committee meeting

20th May 2021

Minutes with Conclusions

1. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 12th Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting was held in a hybrid form - live in Belgrade and virtually, via Microsoft Teams platform.
2. All RSC members were present during the meeting as well as additional representatives of DG MOVE, and observers of the European Union Member States: Greece, Romania, Croatia, Malta, Slovenia, Italy, as well as Portugal (Presidency of the Council of the European Union)
3. The meeting was Chaired by Chair of the Regional Steering Committee, Mr Zoran Andric and Co-Chair, Mr Harvey Rouse.
4. Agenda of the 12th RSC meeting was adopted without comments.

5.	<p>Discussion on Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy in the Western Balkans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport Community Permanent Secretariat (TCPS) presented Draft Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility in the Western Balkans, Staff Working Paper of TCPS. The purpose of the document is to develop the strategy which would mirror the EU's Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy adopted in 2020 and its flagships and milestones. RSC expressed gratitude to the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat for the work done on this important strategy. Transport Community Permanent Secretariat has been asked to further facilitate the process of implementation of measures. European Commission emphasised that this is a Staff working document, which should be reflected on the cover page. The EC will send its further editorial comments in the upcoming week. The final document can be used as a tool for Regional Partners in developing their own strategies and will be a good basis for discussion on what can be achieved on regional level during the next Ministerial Council. North Macedonia will also send some additional comments in writing related to postponement of timelines. Financial analysis and cost estimation was sent to RSC as a project proposal, and it is expected that it will also be finalised in the future.• 27 May 2021 was agreed as a deadline for delivering further comments to Transport Community Permanent Secretariat.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 June 2021 is agreed as a deadline for the updated version of the TCPS staff working document to be sent to the RSC members. • The final version of the staff working document will be prepared and presented at the Ministerial Council on 5th July 2021, as one of its main deliverables.
6.	<p>Endorsement of the Action Plan for Waterborne transport and Multimodality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Community Permanent Secretariat presented the Action Plan for Waterborne transport and Multimodality. The Action Plan covers inland waterways, ports, and multimodality. If adopted, with this document, the Transport Community will cover all modes of transport within the scope of the TC Treaty. All the inputs and constructive comments have been taken on board. European Commission welcomed the draft document as a blueprint for guiding the work of the technical committee for waterborne transport and multimodality (for which establishment is in process). Delegation of Albania thanked the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat for the hard work done and informed that Albania has incorporated the findings and recommendations in the current review of Albania’s National Transport Strategy and the new 5-year Action Plan 2021 - 2025. • RSC endorsed the Action Plan for Waterborne transport and Multimodality. The final version of document will be prepared and presented at the Ministerial Council on 5 July 2021, as one of its main deliverables. Transport Community Permanent Secretariat will also take the tasks of promoting the Action Plan in the region in the upcoming period.
7.	<p>Adoption of the decision on the rules with fiscal implications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSC acknowledged the presentation of the main elements of the following Administrative rules necessary for the functioning of Transport Community with fiscal implications: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Rules on reimbursement of the participation cost for the Ministerial meetings, Regional Steering Committee meetings, Technical Committee meetings, Budget Committee and Forum meetings. b) Rules on the reimbursement of Transport Community Permanent Secretariat staff moving costs. c) Rules on Transport Community Permanent Secretariat contribution to the health, unemployment, pension, and disability insurance for staff members.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Commission’s proposal for the Council decision on the EU’s position is still pending, due to Council approval at the meeting today (20/05). Compared to the initial draft document, there are text revisions of linguistic and legal nature, but no changes to the substance. Delegation of North Macedonia informed the RSC that they have some further comments regarding the Rules on reimbursement of the participation cost of the Ministerial meetings, Regional Steering Committee meetings, Technical Committees meetings, Budget Committee and Forum meetings. In that respect the request was made to include per diems to the aforementioned rules. European Commission replied that this cannot be supported. Delegation of North Macedonia informed participants that they will send additional comments in writing. • Delegation of Serbia provided a comment regarding the lack of a set deadline for the relocation of staff after the termination on contract, which was supported by the European Commission. • Delegation of Montenegro recommended that Transport Community in the future considers adoption of the rules similar to the one from the Energy Community regarding secondment, temporary hires, and local recruitment. Transport Community Permanent Secretariat was asked to present a Concept paper on secondment rules and prepare it for discussion on the next RSC meeting. • Following the agreement by Chair and Co-Chair of RSC, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat shall launch a written procedure for adopting the three sets of proposed Rules (a, b, c). This shall take place once a decision is taken by the EU Council on the position of the European Union.
8.	<p>Adoption of the decision regarding the revision of the Annex I of the TCT (Article 20 of TCT, new legislation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSC acknowledged the information on current state of play regarding Revision of the Annex I of Transport Community Treaty, presented by the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat. • Permanent Secretariat of Transport Community informed participates that for the sake of legal clarity and simplification, it is appropriate to replace Annex I.1, except for the maps of the indicative Ten-T extension to the Western Balkans (core and comprehensive networks), to Annex I.7 of the TCT, by the following text in the Annex to this Decision article 1: “Annex I.1, except for the maps of the indicative TEN-T extension to the

	<p>Western Balkans (core and comprehensive networks), to Annex I.7 the TCT is replaced by the text in the Annex to this". The text of the draft decision will be adapted to reflect this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegation North Macedonia informed participants that the governmental procedure regarding the adoption of documents is pending, so it is not in the position to adopt the decision at today's meeting. • Following the agreement by the Chair and Co-Chair of RSC, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat shall launch a written procedure regarding Adoption of the decision regarding the revision of the Annex I of the TCT (Article 20 of TCT, new legislation) in view of endorsement at the Transport Community Ministerial Council.
9.	<p>Endorsement of the Regional Steering Committee's Report to the Ministerial Council on the Implementation of the TEN-T (Article 8 of TCT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSC acknowledged the presentation of the Report to the Ministerial Council on the Implementation of the TEN-T made by Transport Community Permanent Secretariat. Transport Community Permanent Secretariat is grateful to the Regional Partners for their involvement in the process of data collection. Main findings regarding the compliance and status of projects were presented. • European Commission highlighted that the implementation of any regulation in relation to the installation of alternative fuels is still missing in the region. Furthermore, efforts should continue to keep pace with the transposition of EU Directives such as the upcoming revision of the Directive on the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure, the Regulation on Trans – European Transport Network (TEN-T) as well as other policy instruments such as the Recast of the Renewable Energy Directive. Furthermore the endorsed Road Action Plan on 26th of October 2021 addressing the issues of supply of recharging infrastructure along the indicative extension of TEN-T Core and Comprehensive Network in the Western Balkans, as well as in the Action plan for Waterborne transport and Multimodality that will be developed, particular attention should be given to developing concepts and planning documents for future availability of alternative clean fuel supply facilities. • Delegation of North Macedonia informed the RSC about new projects on Corridor VIII towards Bulgaria and the latest updates will be provided by 27 May 2021. Bosnia and

	<p>Herzegovina proposed to add the name of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat Director to the document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the agreement by Chair and Co-Chair of RSC, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat shall submit the final version of the document to presented at the Ministerial Council on 5 July 2021.
10.	<p>Progress report on the extension of Green Lanes to the borders between the EU and Western Balkans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSC welcomed Progress report on the extension of Green Lanes to the borders between the EU and Western Balkans prepared by the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat. The list of the border crossing points is defined, the coordination body is established, the list of priority goods is prepared. • European Commission welcomed the report as a topic for discussion at the Ministerial Council.
11.	<p>Preparation of TCT Ministerial Council (Article 24 of TCT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial Council is planned to take place on 5th July 2021 in Slovenia. RSC acknowledged the presentation of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat on the main topics of the meeting. European Commission welcomed the agenda and proposed topics. • Agenda of the Ministerial Council was adopted by the RSC without comments. • Draft Presidency's Conclusions were adopted by the RSC without modifications.
12.	<p>Information on Western Balkans Rail Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Community Permanent Secretariat presented the main information about the planned Western Balkans Rail Summit, which will be organised jointly by Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, EIB and EBRD. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Draft Programme as discussed during the Rail Technical Committee on 6th May 2021 was presented. Western Balkans Rail Summit will take place in Belgrade, on 13th September 2021. b) Draft Dedication to Rail document was presented. c) Draft Memorandum of Understanding Establishing Western Balkans infrastructure managers coordination network was presented.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Commission is looking forward to the proposed Western Balkans Rail Summit, especially in the current European Year of Rail. Proposed documents are welcomed by European Commission.
13.	<p>Information regarding the Conclusions of the First and Second Social Forums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Community Permanent Secretariat presented conclusions of the First and Second Social Forums, that took place on 26 October 2020 and 25 February 2021. Conclusions will be presented to the Ministerial Council on the 5 July 2021.
14.	<p>Transport Community Budget 2022 forecast and information on 2021 Contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Community Permanent Secretariat informed the RSC about the Budget Contributions in 2021 and forecast for the Budget 2022. Budget 2022 is at the same level and follows the same structure as Budgets 2020 and 2021. The proposal will be discussed at the next RSC. Regarding the Budget Contributions in 2021, all Regional Partners have paid their contributions in full. After the audit procedure for 2020 accounts is completed, the offset proposals will be sent to each Regional Partner. European Commission took note of the preliminary forecast for the Budget 2022 and will begin to draft a Council Decision for an EU position on the budget. Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina proposed, for the next RSC meeting, to have a separate point regarding Conclusions from the Budget Committee, to be presented by the Chair (or Co-Chair) of the Budget Committee. The motion was supported by the RSC.

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15.	<p>Road Safety Observatory for the Western Balkans region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Community Permanent Secretariat informed RSC on the proposal to establish the Road Safety Observatory for the Western Balkans region. First deliverables are foreseen for the Ministerial Council on 5 July 2021. European Commission took note on the information on establishment of the Road Safety Observatory. Transport Community Permanent Secretariat was asked to prepare a detailed outset of the first and second stage of the Road Safety Observatory for the Western Balkans for the next RSC meeting. Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina mentioned the problem of data collection which represents a significant workload for the Regional Partners.
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16.	<p>Debrief of the RSC on the meeting of the Budget Committee of Transport Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Community Permanent Secretariat debriefed RSC on the meeting of the Budget Committee of Transport Community. • Budget Committee proposed a revision of financial and procurement rules and to consider multiannual contracts for audit services. • TCPS together with EC will submit a proposal regarding the revision of financial and procurement rules.
17.	<p>Five-year rolling work plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Community Permanent Secretariat informed RSC on a Five-year rolling work plan for the development of the indicative TEN-T extension of the comprehensive and core networks to the Western Balkans and the identification of priority projects of regional interest, as stipulated in the Article 9 of TCT. The activity will be done in 2021, as agreed in the RSC in October 2020. • Separate consultations and a dedicated meeting are proposed to analyse the needs and possible tailor-made solutions for collection of different data from Regional Participants. European Commission supported the proposal. Transport Community Permanent Secretariat will organize the meetings in this regard in the next two weeks.
18.	<p>e-platform for the Western Balkans 6 information exchange on road transport operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal from delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding an e-platform for the Western Balkan 6 information exchange on road transport operations was presented. A formal proposal will be sent in written to all the partners. European Commission took note of the intervention and is looking forward to receiving the formal proposal for further discussion. • Transport Community Permanent Secretariat acknowledged the suggestion and is happy to facilitate the process. It is proposed that the matter should be further discussed during the next RSC meeting.
19.	<p>Monitoring Reports on BCPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding the Monitoring Reports on BCPs, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat informed RSC about challenges related to collection of information by Regional Partners and urged that accurate data should be delivered in timely manner.

European Commission encouraged data collection to be improved and continue during the COVID pandemic.

- It is concluded that the reporting will continue, with specially paying attention to the major fluctuations:



Co-Chair of the Regional Steering Committee
Mr Zoran Andric

Co-Chair of the Regional Steering Committee
Mr Harvey Rouse