



10th meeting of Technical Committee on Railway
Hybrid Session – Belgrade, Hotel Mona Plaza / MS Teams
05th October 2021 10:00-16:15
Draft Conclusions

1. Administrative issues:

- Agenda of the 10th Meeting of Technical Committee on Railway was adopted unanimously
- Due to absence of Bosnian representative nominated as Chair, it is agreed that Transport Community Permanent Secretariat (hereinafter: TCT Secretariat) will chair this meeting.
- TCT Secretariat welcomed new members to TC on Railway: Anica Stojicevic of Serbian Ministry of Construction, Infrastructure and Transport, and from Montenegro: Dragana Luksic, Ministry of Capital Investments and Jovan Brajovic, Railway Infrastructure of Montenegro.

2. TCT Secretariat presented Annual Progress Report on implementation of Rail Action Plan

- Progress report on implementation of Rail Action Plan is **adopted** by all members of the Technical Committee on Railway
- All Regional Partners made small but visible progress in the last 12 months.
- Rail market opening is on good track in all RPs. Further transposition and implementation of the EU Rail legislation is needed.
- North Macedonia asked for the extension of deadline for the adoption of new Railway Law until 4th quarter of 2022. With adoption of this Law, MK will open rail market at domestic level.
- TCT Secretariat informed that by this request for extension, North Macedonia can breach the deadlines set out in the Rail Action Plan and the Transport Community Treaty.
- Passenger rights: Main challenge – compensation for delayed, canceled or overbooked international and domestic trains.
- Governance: in last 12 months, TCT Secretariat has established the network of contacts with all EU Delegation from the region.
- Interoperability: strong support of ERA is underlined, 6 rail workshops with ERA where organised in all RPs until the end of 2020, and additional challenges were identified by all RPs.
- Border crossing agreements: North Macedonia and Kosovo* signed final missing protocol. Training is needed to put in operation in the future.
- Modernisation of railway infrastructure: there are eleven ongoing projects in the entire region. Deadline for their implementation is 2027.

3. Regional partners from Montenegro and Serbia were invited to share with Albania the network statement for port of Bar and for some of the ports in Danube, in order to use it as a model to prepare network statement for Durres and Vlore.

4. ERA announced upcoming trainings in the region:

- Safety management training for IPA beneficiaries in October, with human and organizational factors in focus (2 day-training). Nominations from all RPs except from BIH were received, all RPs are invited to nominate 2 participants by Friday, 8.10.2021.
- Risk management training in the beginning of December, due to ERA shortage of experts it is still to be confirmed.
- Confirmed training in rail accident investigation - planned for the beginning of the next year.
- ERA will further explore how the 3rd countries could join to EVR and will inform TCT Secretariat about this point.

* 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.

5. TCT Secretariat informed the participants about the activities on level crossing safety improvement projects, conducted with infrastructure managers from the region with support of Jaspers. TCT Secretariat underlined that Kosovo and Montenegro delivered the data partly, as well as Bosnia (only Republic of Srpska). All RPs were invited to urge the infrastructure managers to fill in the templates sent previously by TCT Secretariat and send their contributions as soon as possible. These data will serve as base for IPA and WBIF calls to regional participants as of 2022.
6. TCT Secretariat informed about planned visits to BIH and Montenegro – by mid-November visits should be completed, and by end of year TCT Secretariat expects to have preliminary report regarding the priority in terms of mapping of critical LCs in the region.
7. All RPs welcomed presentation on Slovenian model of cleaning up of the national technical rules, given by Vlasta Kampos Jerenec, Head of Railway and Cableway Sector from Slovenian Ministry of Infrastructure.
8. All Regional Partners (RPs) acknowledged presentation on SMART2-Advanced integrated obstacle and track intrusion detection system for smart automation of rail transport given by prof. Milos Simonovic, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of University of Nis. The project is supported by Shift2Rail JU
9. The importance of involving research institutions and increasing capacity in smart railway domain in whole WB region is reiterated. TCT Secretariat encouraged all other research institutions to cooperate with Shift2Rail and involve in such activities. With relate to establishing cooperation between university network and TCT Secretariat – RPs were asked to connect TCT Secretariat to relevant contact points at the Universities within western Balkans.
10. All RPs acknowledged the information about multimodal project based on the regulation on electronic freight transport information (it relates to all modes of transport except maritime) given by TCT Secretariat.
11. All RPs welcomed the information on the Preparation of training for transposition of the 4th Rail Package:
 - TCT Secretariat invited all RPs to participate in workshop related to EU acquis, namely 4th railway package. Although level of transposition and implementation between RPs differs, joint TAIEX workshop for WB6 is proposed in this purpose.
 - One RP should be the leader (25 participants), others (3 participants). All regional partners were encouraged to contact TCT Secretariat's EU Acquis and Legal Desk Officer Anna Krukowska related to future trainings and implementation of legislation.
12. All RPs assessed the major events organized by TCT, the Western Balkan Rail Summit and TCT Summer school, as very successful and expressed wish that this practice will become traditional.
13. All RPs welcomed the presentation - Study Case "Belgrade-Budapest" high speed line given by Marko Jeremic, Head of Infrastructure Access Unit, Traffic and Rail Infrastructure Access Department of Infrastructure of Serbian Railways.
14. TCT recalled all RPs to deliver data regarding Five year rolling Plan. Infrastructure priority projects identified in the Annual TEN-T report by RPs is just starting point for this exercise.
15. Transport volume by TCT Secretariat presented report and latest trends regarding impact of COVID 19 and resilience measures.
 - Based on figures from 2019 and 2020, traffic volume freight trend is on the same level in Serbia, and almost at same level in Kosovo. Montenegro volume has grown a bit in 2020 and in Albania around 50% drop compared to same period in 2019. In BIH (Rep Srpska) there is drop around 20%.
 - Port operations: Albania should inform TCT Secretariat on activities in port of Durres.
 - Passenger transport: one international train in WB is operational in the moment, and in general in 2020 there is a drop of 50% compared to the same period in 2019.
16. All speakers agreed that their presentations can be published at the website of the Transport Community.
17. Next TC shall be organized in the first week of February. The place will be defined in due time.