



13th Regional Steering Committee Meeting
21 October 2021, Pržno, Montenegro
Draft Minutes and Conclusions

1. The 13th Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting was held on 21 October 2021 from 14:30 to 17:00, in a hybrid form (by physical participation and online).
2. All RSC members were present during the meeting as well as observers of the EU Member States.
3. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Regional Steering Committee, Mr Gjynejt Mustafa, on behalf of the Presidency of the Steering Committee and Co-Chair Ms Mona Bjorklund, from the European Commission.
4. Agenda of the 13th RSC meeting was adopted.

5.	<p>Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's (TCT Secretariat) Work Plan and Budget for year 2022</p> <p>A) Information regarding TCT Secretariat's Work Plan for year 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Community Permanent Secretariat (TCT Secretariat) presented the draft Annual Work Program for year 2022. The document contains TCT Secretariat's milestones and planned activities in 2022, administrative information on financial management and human resources, as well as an indicative calendar of events to be organised by TCT Secretariat in 2022. • RSC welcomed the proposed draft Work Plan 2022 and its focus on delivery of milestones, as defined in the Transport Community's Action Plans for Road, Rail, Transport Facilitation and Road Safety. It was also suggested that the RSC should regularly take stock of state of play of implementation of the Annual Work Plan during the year (for example every six months). <p><i>Conclusion: Final version of the document will be presented at the RSC Meeting in December 2021.</i></p> <p>B) Discussion on the Draft proposal for Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Budget for year 2022 and implementation of 2021 Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat presented the Draft Budget for year 2022 and the rate of implementation of the 2021 budget. • RSC welcomed the draft Budget for year 2022. • Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was interested why TODIS is part of a particular budget line and asked that the amount dedicated to it be clarified. <p><i>Conclusion: The final version of the Budget for 2022 will be presented for adoption at the next RSC Meeting to be held in December 2021.</i></p>
6.	<p>Information on the 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat presented information on the progress of preparation of the Five-Year Rolling Plan. • RSC acknowledged information on state of play and future steps for the 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 given by TCT Secretariat. <p><i>Conclusion: The final document will be prepared for the first RSC meeting to be held in the year 2022 and will be presented for adoption at the Ministerial Council of the Transport Community in March 2022.</i></p>
7.	<p>Discussion on Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's One year progress report on implementation of TCT Action Plans on Road, Road Safety, Rail, and Transport Facilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat presented the One year progress report on implementation of TCT Action Plans on Road, Road Safety, Rail, and Transport Facilitation. The report presents the progress made on the implementation of the TCT four Action Plans. Hence, the report provides to Western Balkans 6 Parties an objective view on progress made in the last year, additional efforts needed, and concrete measures to be taken to achieve milestones defined in each of the Action Plans. • RSC welcomed the report and appreciated the discussion on progress on substance. It highlighted that this should become a yearly practice. It was also suggested that two additional documents be included in the

GJM

	<p>yearly monitoring exercise: Waterborne and Multimodality Action Plan as well as TCT Secretariat's Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for Western Balkans. RSC members also requested that copies of the Progress Report are made available for each Regional Partner.</p> <p><i>Conclusion: RSC welcomed the One-year progress report on implementation of TCT Action Plans. The RSC agreed for the document to be presented to Ministers of Western Balkans 6 Parties at the High-Level Conference on Transport that takes place on 22 October in Pržno, Montenegro.</i></p>
8.	<p>Progress report on the establishment of Transport Community's Transport Observatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat presented progress on development of TCT's Transport Observatory. Presentation included Transport Observatory's main functions as well as technical requirements, phases of development, main deliverables, and costs connected to development of the Observatory. • RSC acknowledged the information on the establishment of the Transport Community's Transport Observatory and supported the proposal of mobilising JASPERS assistance for the Transport Observatory implementation (applications shall be sent by North Macedonia on behalf of all Regional Partners). <p><i>Conclusion: RSC acknowledged the work on the Transport Observatory and welcomed further steps required for its implementation.</i></p>
9.	<p>Administration</p> <p>A) Discussion on the main elements of the proposed changes to Staff Rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed changes to Staff Rules introducing education allowance and teleworking were presented by the TCT Secretariat. <p><i>Conclusion: The RSC took note of the proposal by the TCT Secretariat regarding the proposed changes to the Staff Rules and will revert to this point again after a more detailed proposal is developed and presented to the RSC.</i></p> <p>B) Discussion on main elements of the Draft Rules for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Secondment and locally contracted person ii. Education allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSC took note of the main elements of the draft rules for Secondment and locally contracted person, as well as Education allowance. The general view of the RSC was that before a decision can be made on the aforementioned topics more information should be provided by the TCT Secretariat. • On main elements of the draft rules on Secondment, the RSC members highlighted that the system of secondment should be based on the TCT Secretariat's needs, and at the same time it should respect geographical equilibrium. The duration of secondment should be limited in order to allow more secondments in one year (the proposal from delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was that the average Secondment should last approximately six months in alphabetical rotation of RSC members, as it is done in the CEFTA Secretariat). • Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed its concerns with the concept of teleworking, and stressed that the rules regarding teleworking must be clearly defined and should be limited in scope, as well as duration. • RSC Members requested more details on education allowance, as well as on teleworking. <p><i>Conclusion: RSC took note of the presentation of the main elements of the following draft administrative rules necessary for the functioning of the Transport Community with fiscal implications (Rules on Secondment and locally contracted person and Rules on Education allowance). Following the discussion at the RSC Meeting, a more detailed proposal will be developed by the TCT Secretariat and shared with the RSC Members.</i></p> <p>C) Discussion on main elements for the possible amendments of Financial Rules, following Budget Committee's recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the TCT Budget Committee's recommendation, TCT Secretariat presented main elements for the possible amendments of the Financial Rules.

	<p><i>Conclusion: Following the Budget's Committee recommendation, RSC welcomed the proposal for amendments of the Financial Rules in principle, while tasking TCT Secretariat to submit a more detailed proposal before the adoption.</i></p>
10.	<p>Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory (WBRSO)</p> <p>A) Information by Transport Community Permanent Secretariat regarding Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory – Second Phase</p> <p>B) Approval of the three-year work plan of Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat presented information regarding latest developments related to WBRSO Observatory • A detailed description of the tasks and deliverables from completed Phase I was presented, as well as a timetable for Phase II, including financial costs. Phase II of the WBRSO (implementation phase) shall include the development of a database system for collecting the data defined in the questionnaire, as well as the implementation of the three-year work plan drafted in the first phase. <p><i>Conclusion: RSC welcomed information on the state of play regarding the establishment of the WBRSO (Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory) as well as the three-year work plan of WBRSO.</i></p>

AOB

11.	<p>Independent Auditor's Report for year 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat presented the Independent Auditor's Report for financial year 2020. <p><i>Conclusion: RSC Members acknowledged the Audit Report for year 2020 and its positive conclusions.</i></p>
12.	<p>Waterborne Transport and Multimodality Technical Committee – state of play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat presented the state of play regarding establishment of the Waterborne Transport and Multimodality Technical Committee. Representative of the European Commission informed RSC that the EU side has already approved establishment of the Technical Committee and that it will therefore support its formal adoption in the forthcoming written procedure. <p><i>Conclusion: RSC agreed to launch a written procedure for establishing the Waterborne Transport and Multimodality Technical Committee and its Terms of Reference and mandate.</i></p>
13.	<p>Information on TCT Secretariat's projects supported by CONNECTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat presented information on ongoing CONNECTA projects. <p><i>Conclusion: RSC acknowledged information on ongoing CONNECTA projects, presented by the TCT Secretariat.</i></p>
14.	<p>Information on Technical Assistance to the Regional Partners provided by TCT Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat presented information on launched and planned procurements for technical assistance to Regional Partners: for capacity building for transport facilitation in the Western Balkans, for the preparation of the baseline assessment and financial implications to electronic tolling interoperability in the Western Balkans and for deployment of e - freight in the Western Balkans, and implementation of the Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 on electronic freight transport information. All procurements shall be completed by the end of 2021. <p><i>Conclusion: RSC acknowledged information on technical assistance to be provided to the Regional Partners.</i></p>
15.	<p>Information regarding new RSC Members from the European Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSC welcomed information on appointment of the new RSC Member on behalf of the European Commission, Ms Mona Bjorklund.

Chair of the Regional Steering Committee
Mr Gjynejt Mustafa

Co-Chair of the Regional Steering Committee
Ms Mona Bjorklund