



1st meeting of Technical Committee on Waterborne Transport and Multimodality

Hybrid Session – Hotel Four Points by Sheraton, Pristina and MS TEAMS

30th November 2021, Pristina

10:00-16:30

Final minutes and conclusions

Members of the Technical Committee present at the meeting:

Physically Present: Mr Dino Tutundžić (Montenegro), Mr Osman Redzep (North Macedonia), Mr Gjynejt Mustafa, Mr Fejzullah Mustafa (Kosovo*)

Online participation: Mr Veljko Kovačević (Serbia), Ms Lemana Korić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Mr Elson Thana (Albania), Ms Lia Potec (European Commission), Mr Nedim Begović, Mr Albert Kolgeci, Mr Matej Zakonjšek, Mr Kristijan Ležaić (TCT Secretariat)

1. The Technical Committee on Waterborne Transport and Multimodality was welcomed by Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Director Matej Zakonjšek who underlined the importance of establishing the Technical Committee in this mode of transport, aiming to integrate WB6 transport market into the EU and to establish competitive, reliable and sustainable transport by digitalization and green concepts in Ports. He reiterated endorsement of Action plan for waterborne transport by Ministerial in July 2021, as well as organization of Maritime conference in Tirana in September 2021.
The agenda of the meeting was adopted unanimously.
2. TC Permanent Secretariat presented Rules of Procedure of The Technical Committee on Waterborne Transport and Multimodality, defining rules how the Committee works and decides. Rules of procedure were adopted as proposed.
3. It is agreed that the first chairmanship of the Technical Committee on Waterborne Transport and Multimodality will be given to Montenegro. The future chairmanships will follow in the alphabetical order. The TC meetings will take place at least 3 times a year.
4. TC Permanent Secretariat shall try to enhance participation in the future TC meetings in terms of inviting observers from international organisations (EMSA, IMO, European Sea Ports Organization, Inland Navigation Europe etc).
5. TC Permanent Secretariat presented the Action plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality for the period 2021-2025, its goals, content, timeframe and priority measures, as well as legislation applicable to maritime transport and inland waterways and actions related to



infrastructure, digital and green elements of sea ports. The Technical Committee shall present yearly report with regard to progress and implementation of the Action Plan to the Regional Steering Committee, as stipulated in the Rules of procedure.

6. TC Permanent Secretariat encouraged Regional Partners to obtain observer status European commission expert groups as per the action plan (NAIADES, Social Matters, Technical Requirements for Vessels and DINA RIS) as well as in the working groups for CESNI.
7. The Technical Committee welcomed presentation of the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for the Western Balkans (SSMS WB) given by TC Permanent Secretariat. SSMS WB objectives and roadmap (flagships) were presented, as well as policy framework and timeframe, with special focus on flagships 2 (creating zero emission airports and ports) and flagship 4 (greening freight transport) tackling waterborne transport dimensions of the Strategy. TC Permanent Secretariat expressed its support for all Regional Partners' forthcoming projects with regard to presented flagships and objectives as presented in the SSMS WB.
8. Current state of the Measures identified in the Action plan per each regional partner and discussion on challenges in implementation:
 - Technical Committee welcomed presentation of current state of the Measures identified in the Action plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There is no Law on Inland Waterway Transport on state level. TC Permanent Secretariat stands ready to support Bosnia and Herzegovina to adopt the law on state level, as precondition for all other actions set out in the Action plan, as well as to give support to the project of demining of the right bank of the River Sava which should be started in 2022.
 - Serbia presented activities of maritime and inland waterway sector of the Ministry of transport. Measures achieved and planned are divided in 2 areas: legislation, and infrastructure and digital measures. Inland waterways legislation: new Rulebook on recognition of inland navigation was adopted (fully aligned with EU legislation). Safety and technical requirements area is fully aligned with EU legislation. Project plans and measures: all project activities divided in 3 pillars - Ports (development of infrastructure), implementation of 4 projects (capacity expansion of Prahovo, Bogojevo, Sremska Mitrovica, new port of Belgrade); River transport infrastructure - several ongoing projects; and ITS – several ongoing projects are currently in tendering phase. Maritime transport: major part of legislation is aligned with EU legislation, by the end of next year full alignment will be achieved, Serbia ratified all relevant IMO conventions, missing Protocol from 2010 will be ratified before Serbia's finalisation of accession process. After a question from the TCT Secretariat, Mr Vojko Kovacevic confirmed that Serbia will by the end of the year 2021 request the observer status in the EC expert groups on IWW. Mr Kovacevic also elaborated that in the course of 2022 a study on the analysis of using LNG as an alternative fuel in IWW in Serbia, will be initiated.
 - Albania presented its state of play in the area of inland waterways and maritime policies. Maritime transport is a priority for Albania. International and IMO conventions are almost all ratified. Port infrastructure is second priority. New railway Tirana-Durres is being built, plans to build railway to Montenegro and southern part of Albania, to connect all ports



by railway. Transposition of EU legislation from Annex I of the Treaty remains priority for Albania. Directive on Port state control is transposed, vessel traffic monitoring- currently working with World Bank on project to establish hardware and software, reporting formalities remains a high priority, planned to establish national single window. Oil tankers and bulk areas: planned for 2023, investigation procedures: drafted and approved law, insurance – planned for 2023, ship generated waste: Directive fully transposed, but as it is amended the national legislation must be adjusted accordingly. Maritime security: fully transposed, training of sea fearers: in the process of approval.

- Montenegro is working on drafting of three laws: law on ports (legal basis for adopting of several bylaws planned in 2022), law on inland navigation, law on protection from pollution from maritime facilities. Port of Bar -improvements of port community system, deadline end of June 2022 but could be prolonged for 6 months, vessel traffic monitoring system- established in 2015 in Montenegro, upgrade is planned through IPA 2017 project, deadline December 2021. Multimodality: ToR for study for multimodality has been drafted, ongoing feasibility study for multimodality in port of Bar.
 - North Macedonia has presented the status of the transposition of relevant acquis with the focus on IWW in the Ohrid lake, mentioning the number of vessels and their usage for mainly touristic purposes. North Macedonia will remain committed to implementation of the measures identified in the action plan regarding Acquis transposition
 - Kosovo* doesn't have sea or inland rivers, but is considering to establish division within Ministry of infrastructure to deal with the waterborne issues and would like to exchange experience with other regional partners . Kosovo will start transposing regulations in the area of inland waterways. Multimodal transport is high priority in current transport strategy that is being revised. Albania expressed readiness to assist Kosovo in preparation of legislation in all relevant fields, particularly maritime.
9. The Technical Committee welcomed presentation of the Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2020 on electronic freight transport information (eFTI Regulation) given by Ms Lia Potec, Policy Officer from DG MOVE. Main findings of the impact assessment in the area of digitalisation of transport documents in the EU, key elements of the eFTI Regulation, vision of application of the Regulation in practice and its expected impacts of implementation, complementarity with EU e-customs and e-maritime systems and indicative timeline of implementation and application of the Regulation were presented to the Regional Partners.
10. The Technical Committee acknowledged presentation of the planned project - Enabling e - freight in Western Balkans multimodal transport digitalization given by TCT Secretariat.
11. The Technical Committee welcomed presentation of the Sectorial Strategy and Multimodal Transport 2015 – 2025 and the Action Plan for 5 years given by Ministry of Infrastructure of Kosovo.

* 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.



12. As conclusions of the meeting, Mr Kristijan Lezaic from the TCT secretariat urged the members of the Committee to pay particular attention to measures from the Action plan related to IWW Part (part 2.2.1. of the Action plan) and in particular measure 8. – 13. for which the deadline has already expired (Q2 2021), and to address these measures by the end of the year 2021. Mr Lezaic thanked Bosnia and Herzegovina for submitting already their request for obtaining observer status in EC expert group for NAIADES. In addition, Mr Lezaic underlined that the acquis monitoring per regulatory areas as defined in the action planned will be a continuous horizontal exercise which will be checked on a quarterly basis to see the progress (per each and every directive and Regulation as per Annex 1 of TCT Treaty). Specific tables to monitor the progress will be developed and sent to Regional partners in due time.
13. In the course of 2022, at least 3 meetings of the Technical Committee on Waterborne Transport and Multimodality are envisaged to be held. The proposed date for the next meeting is 2nd half of April 2022, in Lisbon, Portugal (TBC).