



Joint meeting was organised in Dimitrovgrad on Serbian border with Bulgaria on 29 November, between the Transport Community delegation, Ministers Tomislav Momirović and Hristo Aleksiev, to discuss **strengthening of cooperation between Serbia and Bulgaria**. All parties agreed that **re-establishment of one-stop rail border crossing** in Dimitrovgrad will reduce waiting time, spur economic activity and bring concrete benefits to our citizens. Transport Community will continue supporting simplified border crossings

procedures and an operational Corridor X-c in **compliance with TEN-T standards**. Finalising construction of missing road sections on both sides of the border and fully utilising the rail Corridor X-c are among the priorities of our organisation. Rail was also in focus of the meeting with Deputy Heads of missions in Belgrade. Director Zakonjšek presented TCT work in this area, highlighting the importance of rail Corridor X and regional rail interoperability.

**Joint border management**, as a precondition for improved connectivity within Western Balkans and with EU Member States, was the topic at the 12 November meeting in Podgorica, attended by representatives of regional partners (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia) and the EU neighbor, Croatia. **Green Lanes and transport facilitation** in general were highlighted as preconditions for increased trade at the roundtable “Working together to build networks of change” at the Thesaloniki Summit on 4 November in which Transport Community took part.

Upon invitation from Slovenian presidency of the Council of EU, Transport Community participated at the Working Party on Transport - Intermodal Questions and Networks on 22 November. In his address at

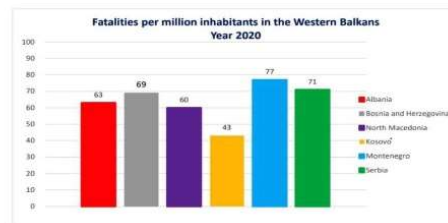
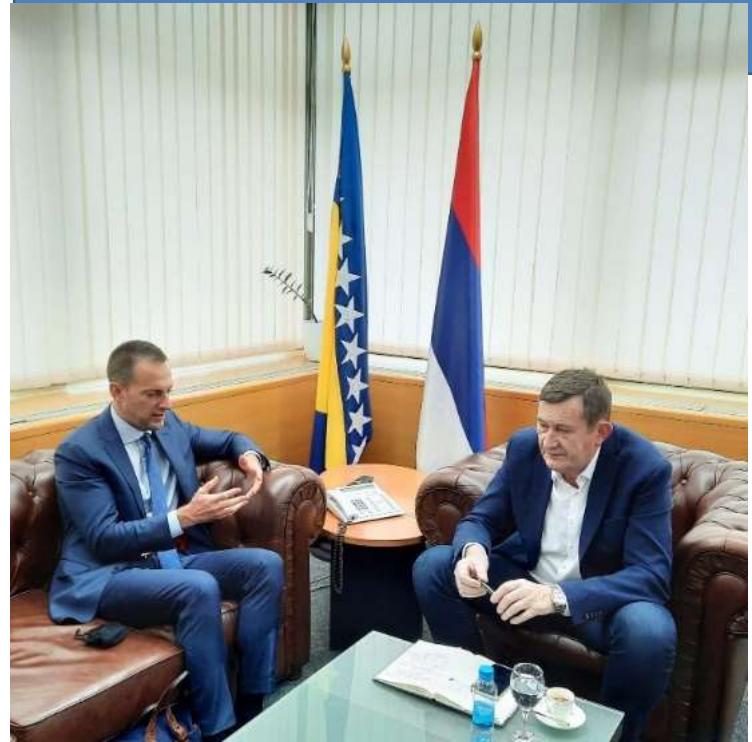


the working party, Director Zakonjšek presented the **Transport Community’s main achievements in the year 2021** and the plans for the forthcoming 2022, highlighting the focus of activities on *Roads for the future*. During the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), Transport Community highlighted its work in the field of **green transformation of the region**. The Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility in the Western Balkans<sup>1</sup> includes clear objectives aimed at reducing CO2 emissions, especially from roads, which account for 90% of all transport CO2 emissions in the region. The strategy proposes solutions how to decarbonise road transport and increase share of zero-emission vehicles.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Strategy-for-Sustainable-and-Smart-Mobility-in-the-Western-Balkans>

Rail and inland waterways were in focus of the 16 November meeting with Minister Vojin Mitrović. Interlocutors noted the importance of adoption of a Railway Law that will serve as basis for development of rail in Bosnia and Herzegovina. **Improving navigability of River Sava and development of inland waterway ports** will benefit the environment and help move cargo away from roads. On the same day, TCT delegation met with the Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Sarajevo Mr Stefano Ellero to discuss support to Bosnia and Herzegovina for the **development of sustainable and green transport**, with focus on rail.

Demining of River Sava as one of the most important waterways in the region will increase its navigability and improve multimodal transport between Western Balkans and the EU. Representatives of the Sava River Basin Commission and TCT held a productive meeting on this topic on 17 November. Multimodality was in focus again on 30 November when Transport Community organised the first technical committee on waterborne transport and multimodality. Participants analysed progress made since adoption of TCT Action Plan and the **role of waterborne transport in “greening” of the region**.



<sup>2</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

On 21 November, the **World Day of Remembrance** for road traffic victims, TCT Secretariat through video message<sup>2</sup> reiterated the call for action to save lives. **Road safety** as one of TCT priorities was highlighted again on 30 November at the global meeting of regional road safety observatories, in which the TCT Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory was part of.

Transport Community initiated online kick-off discussion on “*Women in*

*Transport: Western Balkans Perspective*” on 19 November. The meeting brought together a group of key stakeholders to debate **gender balance in the transport sector** in the region and agree on the way forward. This was a first preparatory discussion on the gender balance in transport, that will be followed-up by the first Women in Transport Conference on the 8 March 2022 with a wider group of stakeholders. The first technical committee on waterborne transport took place on 30 November to further streamline regional cooperation in this area. Finally, 30 November visit to Pristina was an opportunity to meet with ICK, an organisation working to offer opportunities to young entrepreneurs in the region.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.transport-community.org/2021/11/21/video-message-world-day-of-remembrance/>