

**11th meeting of Technical Committee on Railway
Hybrid Session – Skopje, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
10th February 2022 10:00-16:00
Draft Conclusions**

1. Agenda of the 11th Meeting of Technical Committee on Railway was adopted unanimously.
2. Election of the new Chair: Chair of TC on Railway for the year 2022 shall be Mr Milos Stanojevic on behalf of Serbia.
3. Administrative procedures: Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina were urged to inform TCT Secretariat about new Members of TC on Railway.
Regional participants were informed that according to the new Financial rules adopted by TCT Secretariat's Regional Steering Committee, TCT Secretariat can cover travel costs for TC on Railway meetings for two representatives per regional partner, but not from the same institution.
4. All Regional Partners acknowledged establishment of Network of Infrastructure Managers and welcomed conclusions from the first meeting, briefly presented by TCT Secretariat. TCT Secretariat will continue facilitation of work of IM Network.
5. TCT Secretariat presented Annual Progress Report on implementation of Rail Action Plan from October 2021 – February 2022.
6. TCT Secretariat reported about Regional Missions that took place in October and November 2021. Visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro took place in October. The subject of the meeting in Bosnia were main projects, infrastructure priorities (Samac Dobojski), Law on Railway, LC's safety improvement. The main topics of visit to Montenegro were current issues of Infrastructure Manager in MNE, law on railway system, railway car for measuring network status, preparation for 2nd transitional period of rail market opening within 2022.
Visit to North Macedonia and Kosovo* took place in November 2021. In North Macedonia, infrastructure priorities were discussed, LC's safety improvement, current issues for MTZ and Law on Railway System. In Kosovo, infrastructure priorities, issues for TrainKos, law on railway system, multiannual infrastructure contract were discussed.
Visit to Albania took place in January 2022, with several topics in focus: challenges of separation of companies, establishing 3 independent bodies and adoption of four railway laws.
7. National legislative pipeline for 2022 was presented by each Regional Partner. All RPs were requested to submit their National Plan for Adoption Acquis (NPAA) for 2022 to TCT Secretariat in written form by 01 March 2022.
8. All Regional Partners (RPs) acknowledged presentation on possibilities for re-establishing of the passenger traffic in the region and to recover connections between the capitals, given by SEESARI. SEESARI is the initiative for supporting rail and transport development in South East Europe with focus on railway research, development and innovations. Main priorities and concrete project proposals of SEESARI were presented, as well as SEPA platform for passengers to check timetables and book and buy tickets online.
9. All RPs were invited to propose connections in the Western Balkans region in order to research and pilot such projects. As a precondition, such service should be covered by PSO and proper infrastructure conditions should be put in place. Separate meeting could be organised in this regard, with facilitation of TCT Secretariat.
North Macedonia suggested establishment of railway line Belgrade – Thessaloniki.
10. All RPs welcomed presentation about safety improvement on level crossings in EU, given by Mr Giacomo Potenza from ERA.

* 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.

11. TCT Secretariat briefly informed about the current state of play of Safety on level crossings project in WB, led by Serbia and executed with JASPERS, with facilitation of TCT Secretariat. As an outcome of the first phase of the projects, based on the data collected from Regional Partners, main findings of prioritization for upgrade, replacement or cancellation of level crossings shall be prepared and presented at Road Summit in June 2022. All RPs acknowledged information about Public Awareness Raising Campaign: Safety of Level Crossings in WB6 region, launched by TCT Secretariat. Preparation of promotional video and tv commercial will follow, which will be adjusted to all languages of Regional Partners, so that each RP can start its campaign separately. The campaign will be ready in three months and presented in the Road Summit in June.
12. TCT Secretariat presented preliminary findings from its Five-year development plan: 8 mature and 15 projects under preparation, worth around 7 billion euro with deadline for implementation 2027. According to available data, 30% of the network is in good/very good condition, 30% in average and 40% in poor or very poor condition. The final document shall be adopted at next RSC in March, and endorsed at Ministerial Council.
13. All RPs confirmed the needs for technical assistance in rail that TCT Secretariat will launch in the course of 2022. In that regard, RPs were invited to develop Terms of Reference for market study what could be done to provide support for operators in the region. RPs were invited to share their suggestions and comments in this regard, as well as for the year 2023.
14. All RPs welcomed planned activities for 2022 presented by TCT Secretariat: 2nd meeting of Network of IM in May, SEESARI meeting for establishing passenger railway connection Ljubljana-Zagreb-Belgrade in March, meeting in Skopje regarding corridor VIII in April, next TC on Railway in June, follow-up of Rail Summit in October (back-to-back with last TC for 2022 in Pristina/Skopje).
Potential trainings/workshops: workshops on risk management and on national investigation bodies organised by ERA, TAIEX workshop devoted to border crossing procedures in hybrid form on 7-8 March in Podgorica with visit to Tuzi, TAIEX hybrid workshop on implementation of 4th rail package in Pristina – still tbc.
15. COVID 19 Impact and resilience measures presented by TCT Secretariat: level of transport operation in freight is almost at the same level. Bosnia and Herzegovina (entity of Federation of BIH) and North Macedonia didn't deliver all required data for 2021 and were urged to send it. Situation in ports shows slight decrease in tons compared to 2020, situation in 2021 is on the level of 2019.
16. Next TC on Railway meeting will take place in June 2022, exact date and time tbc.