



10th Transport Facilitation Technical Committee meeting
Hybrid meeting, 29.03.2022.

Summary of meeting

Introduction

- The 10th TCTF hybrid meeting is held with an aim to summarize the activities that took place since the last Technical Committee on Transport Facilitation meeting, with special focus on achieved progress in implementation of Transport Facilitation Action Plan and Technical assistance provided by the TCTF on capacity building in transport facilitation. It was held back-to-back with the central training event under this TA
- TCT Secretariat welcomed the participation of all regional partners, the European Commission, EU member state representatives, CEFTA, CELBET, CONNECTA, WB Chamber of Investment Forum and International Development Group.
- The Director of TCT Secretariat acknowledged the efforts of the national administrations, welcomed the successful technical discussions on the extension of the EU-WB6 Green Lanes to Greece, the excellent Regional TAIEX workshop which took place on 7-8 March 2022 in Podgorica, and reminded the members on few pending issues, such as the opening of the rail JBCP in Hani i Elezit (KOS-MKD), for which the preparations are nearly completed.

Possibilities for cooperation with CELBET (Customs Eastern and South Eastern Land Border Expert Team)

- CELBET expert, Nikolai Voronin presented the goals of CELBET: enhancing operational cooperation; harmonization of customs controls; and sharing best practices and skills
- 8 different tools are available: Shift leaders check list, Synchronized checks and one stop controls, Balanced development of BCPs, Contingency procedure, JCA (Joint CELBET activities), available CELBET Trainings, Evaluations of BCPs (diagnostic study tool), CELBET missions. *Ppt is hereby attached*
- TCT expressed willingness to set a close cooperation with CELBET team for the benefits of the national administrations. CELBET shall send a request to the TCT Secretariat for possible pilot projects with the management of customs authorities in WB6. TCT, together with CEFTA shall coordinate and facilitate the communication, and inform the CELBET expert team about the readiness of the WB6 national authorities to use some of the above-mentioned tools



Green Lanes- updates and Galileo platform

- No significant delays, EU Green Lanes are functioning well
- TCT and CEFTA Secretariat informed about the SEED study visit on BCP Tabanovce for the Greek Customs officials, and the expectations to have EU-WB6 Green Lanes soon functioning on the border between Greece and North Macedonia, allowing for exchange of pre-arrival information in the direction WB6 to Greece
- The enhanced EU Green Lanes Galileo platform was presented by Mr. Alberto Fernandez Wyttenbach, EU Agency for the Space Programme -EUSPA (ppt hereby attached). The BCPs (EU-WB6, as well as intra-WB6) and other points of interest have been identified, and it is expected that soon the Contractor will develop the new platform. Follow-up activities related to WB6 will be liaised with the TCT Secretariat.
- ALB and MKD pointed out that Galileo is expected to be a beneficial platform, and that trainings and instructions are needed for the border agencies in order to get clarification on the implementing agencies and practical modalities. It was confirmed that webinars with users are planned, and that the requests for a specially devoted workshop will be considered by the EUSPA.

Progress in the implementation of the Transport Facilitation Action Plan

(combination summary from the separate sessions related to the implementation of the TA on capacity building n transport facilitation, Task 1, Legal component)

Road BCP/CCP measures

ALB-MKD: progress since the signature and ratification of the bilateral Agreement for establishing joint border crossing points. The border agencies work on preparations of agency protocols (3) that might be integrated into one. Inter-institutional working groups created

ALB-MNE:

- ALB and MNE need to agree on elements¹ raised by MNE regarding the establishment of the joint BCP in Hani i Hoti/Bozaj.

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- 1) Microlocation of the future JBCEP?
- 2) Will the entry-exit control is to be performed in one place, or will the Montenegrin and Albanian sides perform only the entry border control on their own territory?
- 3) Who will bear the costs of reconstruction of the border crossing point to create conditions for the establishing of joint border control?
- 4) Who prepares the project documentation for the establishing of the future JBCEP?
- 5) It is necessary to demand that the authorities managing of these border crossing points should be involved in this topic (Ministry of the Interior of Montenegro - Department for the Management of Facilities and Border Crossing points, and in the Republic of Albania – is the Customs Administration)



- Negotiating platform should be secured internally and the topics and questions raised should be included in the MNE Government Platform for negotiations of the Intergovernmental Agreement.
- TA consultant will assess the provisions from the draft agreement versions sent by ALB and to be sent by MNE, and provide common grounds and common provisions in an integrated draft bilateral agreement, which can be further subject to negotiation, included in the Government Platform
- It is important that the bilateral agreement defines the location and model of JBCP. Considerations should be given to the current layout and existing facilities, and in that sense, the newer facilities in ALB territory might be considered as a location for the future JBCP (perhaps a single country model, subject to agreed terms between RP?)
- CONNECTA project team is mobilized for design of the technical documentation for this JBCP. ALB and MNE welcomed the TA and already facilitated the scoping mission of the consultancy team at Hani and Hotit/Bozaj. As part of the scoping report, the exact scope of the design should be spelled out by the consultant in agreement with the contact points from the relevant beneficiary institutions and upon detailed information provided by them

Conclusions: The expert support the TCT Secretariat's TA on capacity building will be used to prepare a consolidated draft agreements and protocols between ALB and MNE for establishing JBCP in Hani and Hotit/Bozaj, for the purpose of integration of ALB and MNE texts, without unnecessary delays.

Once the draft agreement is ready by the end of April and consulted internally, an official meeting of the bilateral inter-institutional committee shall take place to agree on the most pertinent elements of the draft agreement and prepare the internal procedures for signing

KOS-MKD

- There are ongoing discussions between MKD and KOS Border Police authorities for aspects of their competences regarding establishment of JBCP in Hani i Elezit /Blace. Some challenges regarding IT systems and data sharing were mentioned, related also to fines for misdemeanours
- For the Customs administrations, there are no challenges foreseen in the future functioning of the joint BCP
- A bilateral agreement needs to be put in place as a first step, before the practical implementing issues are defined between neighbouring border agencies. MKD Customs administration suggested that the Ministries of Transport/Infrastructure from the two parties can coordinate and lead the bilateral agreement, while the protocols are in the domain of the border agencies. MKD



side promised to send a Government Conclusion, based on which agencies of the parties are negotiating at the moment

- It is important that the bilateral agreement defines the location and model of JBCP. Considerations should be given to the current layout and existing facilities, and in that sense, the participants mentioned the entry-entry model (controls performed only on entrance in both directions), and larger cabins should be envisaged for hosting jointly the neighbouring agencies
- KOS suggested the CCP Merdare to be used it as a positive example in infrastructure sense and as an example of common and shared facilities, while for the model, they suggested the example of their JBCP Morine-Vermice
- CONNECTA project team is mobilized for design of the technical documentation for this JBCP. KOS and MKD welcomed the TA and already facilitated the scoping mission of the consultancy team at Hani i Elezit/Blace. As part of the scoping report, the exact scope of the design for the existing BCP should be spelled out by the consultant in agreement with the contact points from the relevant beneficiary institutions and upon information provided by them

Conclusions: The expert support the TCT Secretariat's TA on capacity building will be used to prepare draft agreements and protocols between KOS and MKD for establishing JBCP in Hani i Elezit/Blace.

Once the draft agreement is ready by 15th of April and consulted internally, an official meeting of the bilateral inter-institutional committee needs to take place to agree on the most pertinent elements of the draft agreement and prepare the internal procedures for signing

BIH-MNE:

- construction of the future JBCP Scepan Polje-Hum, during the construction of the border crossing point Scepan Polje-2007, two units of this crossing were built, one part located near the border line and the other part about 2,5 km within the territory of Montenegro where the freight terminal is planned, which is partially built.
- The construction of a new bridge on the river Tara will bypass the existing border crossing point
- For future JBCP Ilino brdo - Klobuk it is necessary to equip (value of IT equipment - approx. 50,000.00) Montenegrin official premises and IT connection in BiH, depending on the dynamics of construction of this JBCP. BIH did not create conditions for the establishment of JBCP Ilino Brdo - Klobuk and there was no need to equip the Montenegrin border services.
- To connect to the information system, it is necessary to extend the optical cable to the new facility - approximately 40,000 EUR.
- The problem on the side of BIH is the temporary budgeting for maintenance and investments (the budget is not institutionally approved).



- TCT TA will assist the two parties in formulation of the Agreement and Protocols, as per the agreed ToR

BIH-SRB:

- BCP Kotroman, the works on the construction phase II are ongoing. Currently, works are being carried out on the arrangement of sidewalks, as well as works inside the buildings
- No information on the status of discussion on the joint BCP agreements for the two BCPs between SRB and BIH, and for the one on the Green Corridors
- When it comes to new joint BCP with Bosnia and Herzegovina, the BCP Ljubovija (Novi Most) - Bratunac (Novi Most), that was opened in November 2021, transport of goods on this BCP is not yet enabled, since all customs formalities are not established yet. At this moment, only the traffic of empty lorries is enabled.
- TCT TA will assist the two parties in formulation of the Agreement and Protocols, as per the agreed ToR

MNE-SRB:

- For the moment, the two BCPs on the TEN-T Network (Dobrakovo-Gostun and Dracenovac-Spiljani) are not considered by either of the two parties to become a JBCP
- This sub-task from the TA (preparation of legal documentation for establishing JBCP) between MNE and SRB will thus be left at the end of the assignment, to give more time to the authorities to discuss it at political level. Notwithstanding, the RP were informed that in cases in which, relevant pairs of RPs are not ready for the moment to establish the JBCPs, that they will be provided with useful elaborated set of documents that could be used as a baseline for negotiation of establishment of JBCPs, when the Governments decide to do so.
- Concerning BCP Gostun-Dobrakovo, works are underway on the construction of the second phase, which is also the last phase. All works are performed in accordance with the adopted plan. Work is currently underway to build facilities intended for shipping procedures.

KOS-MNE:

- Montenegrin side informed about Draft Terms of Reference for the development of the main project of the JBCP Kotlovi - Kuciste, for international road passenger traffic on the road Murino - Chakor – Pec. This is not part of the TEN-T or within the scope of the TA
- For the BCP Kula-Kullina (Savina Voda), which is part of the TEN-T and the TCT TA no information on what is the current situation
- The TA consultant together with the national authorities of KOS and MNE to check what exactly will be the most beneficial to be prepared in line with the scope of work



SRB- EUMS:?

- SRB-HU BCP Horgos- on 21 March, construction works started at the BCP Horgos, which is one of the busiest BCPs in the Western Balkans, to get improved and enlarged. The completion of works is planned for the second half of 2023.
- the BCP Kelebija-Tompa, the Republic budget envisages funds for the preparation of technical documentation for the construction of the traffic lane for the full profile of the highway, from BCP Kelebija to the Subotica loop, in the length of 22 km. The public procurement is expected to take place in the first half of this year. The construction of this traffic lane will contribute to better connectivity of BCP Kelebija, as well as relieving BCP Horgos.
- Bilateral meeting held between SRB and BG, discussing the improvement of the conditions on the road and rail BCPs , as well as the establishment of the Green Lanes

Summary of the TA Task 2- Institutional component

Notes from interviews with pairs of RPs:

General/common:

- MNE – Trainings during the summer season are not feasible (from 15/06 to 15/09) - due to work overload it is not possible to suspend the work of border staff for training purposes
- None of representatives at the separate meetings expressed specific additional training needs. All of participants agreed that pre-training survey is feasible. It was recommended that questionnaires should be translated to local language and distributed through central agencies (preferable as online survey links) – additionally to be checked with BIH and SRB Customs and Border Police
- Organization of training sessions as hybrid events with online speakers is practically not possible, especially if the training delivery language is English, which may require 2 simultaneous translators. Such case would require 2 translation cabins, which is not possible to install in small meeting rooms.

Specific for pairs of RPs:

KOS-MKD

- Training at BCP Hani i Elezit is feasible
- Suitable location is at the Terminal, where meeting room is with sufficient capacity
- Request for organization of training (ensuring the venue and participants) should be sent 30 days before indicative training date, by TC Permanent Secretariat. The request also should contain training programme, topics for discussion and presentations.
- Direct Communication on training organization with consultant is possible based on Request for organization by TCPS



- Simultaneous translation will be needed.
- Very limited possibilities for hybrid meeting, but probably feasible.
- Number of participants 2-4 from each agency (total 8-16 border staff)

ALB-MNE

- Training at BCP Sukobin is feasible from the aspect of meeting room capacity
- It is not clear which topics will be delivered, regarding that Sukobin is already working as JBCP
- Training at BCP Hani i Hotit is feasible from the aspect of meeting room capacity
- Request for organization of training (ensuring the venue and participants) should be sent 30 days before indicative training date, by TC Permanent Secretariat. The request also should contain training programme, topics for discussion and presentations.
- Direct Communication on training organization with consultant is possible based on Request for organization by TCPS
- There is no need for special approval to approach the BCP, if the training is properly announced by TCPS and central agencies
- Simultaneous translation will be needed

MNE – SRB

- Training at BCP Gostun is not feasible, there is no adequate meeting room and conditions for such event
- MNE Border police suggested that training could be organized in Bijelo Polje. Such option is open and subject to further consultations
- SRB Customs and Border police were not present at the meeting and options will be checked in direct communication and meetings with central agencies in Belgrade
- Request for organization of training (ensuring the venue and participants) should be sent 30 days before indicative training date, by TC Permanent Secretariat. The request also should contain training programme, topics for discussion and presentations.
- No translation needed

KOS – MNE

- Training at BCP Kula – Savine Vode (Kulina) is not feasible, there is no adequate meeting room and conditions for such event
- Both KOS and MNE border police representatives will check the possible options. In Kosovo, the option could be City of Peć, where new police building is under construction. Option in Montenegro is Rožaje, where municipal premises could be used – to be checked by MNE border police



- Request for organization of training (ensuring the venue and participants) should be sent 30 days before indicative training date, by TC Permanent Secretariat. The request also should contain training programme, topics for discussion and presentations.
- Direct Communication on training organization with consultant is possible based on Request for organization by TCPS
- There is no need for special approval to approach the BCP, if the training is properly announced by TCPS and central agencies
- Simultaneous translation will be needed

BIH – MNE

- Representatives of BIH Customs and Border police were not present at the meeting
- Training at BCP Klobuk is probably feasible, but has to be additionally checked by both side
- Request for organization of training (ensuring the venue and participants) should be sent 30 days before indicative training date, by TC Permanent Secretariat. The request also should contain training programme, topics for discussion and presentations.
- Direct Communication on training organization with consultant is possible based on Request for organization by TCPS
- There is no need for special approval to approach the BCP, if the training is properly announced by TCPS and central agencies
- No translation needed

BIH – SRB

- Representatives of Customs and Border police from both side were not present at the meeting.
- Trainings in Vardiste (BIH) and Mali Zvornik (SRB) are probably feasible, but subject to further consultations with central agencies in Sarajevo and Belgrade
- In case that there is no adequate meeting room at BCP, organization of training in Visegrad (BIH) or Mokra Gora (SRB) should be concerned, as well as at optional commercial facilities in Mali Zvornik or Zvornik
- No translation needed

RAIL BCP/CCP measures:

MKD -KOS:

Conclusion: KOS and MKD transport authorities to coordinate with all other agencies which need to be present at the JBCP and finalize the preparations for putting Hani i Elezit into operation.



ALB-MNE

The problems experienced at the joint rail station in Tuzi might be overcome if the if the trains are sealed in Tuzi and the custom control takes place on some of the stations in Albania (Albanian customs territory), hence preventing long stopping hours at the station in Tuzi.

Conclusion: ALB to officially communicate its position to MNE side, after obtaining Governmental approval.

