



7th Road Technical Committee meeting

10 March 2022, Hybrid, 09.30 – 17.00

Agreed Conclusions

1. Members of the Road Technical Committee (RTC) welcomed the opening remarks by Mr. Matej Zakonjšek, TCT Secretariat Director, who emphasised the support on the implementation of the Road Action Plan. Two technical assistances have already started, respectively baseline assessment for e-tolling interoperability financed by TCT Secretariat and EU CONNECTA project on the impact assessment of Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for the Western Balkans. Furthermore, it was announced that during 2022, the main activities of TCT Secretariat will focus on Roads of the future: safe, smart and sustainable roads.
2. Chair of the Technical Committee, Mr. Naim Kelemendi, welcomed the participants and wished a productive meeting.
3. New member of the Road Technical Committee Mr. Merkur Zeqiri was introduced, as representative of Albanian Road Authority replacing Mr. Erald Elezi.
4. RTC members reported on the progress of the implementation of Road Action Plan. The progress per each group of measures can be summarized as:
 - Road maintenance. Maintenance plans. There is moderate progress reported on putting in place three-year maintenance contracts. Restructuring of Albanian Road Authority, towards more financial autonomy is still ongoing with expected completion by end of 2022. Kosovo*¹ launched the tender for the maintenance contracts with expected signing date by June 2022. Due to the preparation of Montenegro spatial planning, the deadline for finalisation of Medium term plan for construction, reconstruction and maintenance of the road network is postponed to June 2022. RAMS. There were positive developments in Kosovo and Montenegro related to Road Asset Management Systems. Kosovo included RAMS in 2022 budget and Montenegro has reached a grant agreement with EBRD.
 - ITS Deployment. Strategy. The preparation of a strategic framework for the deployment of Intelligent Transport System (ITS) is progressing slowly. Montenegro reported that ITS National program for roads has been finalised in November 2021. Delays are still faced in Serbia and North Macedonia in World Bank TTF1 supported projects. EU CONNECTA to

¹ * 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.

- support the rest of Regional Partners is expected to start by end of March 2022. Legal approximation. Approval of the Administrative Instruction in Kosovo for the transposition of ITS Directive is still pending. Montenegro adopted 5 bylaws related to the transposition of respective EU Directive 2010/40/EU and Directive 2004/52/EC. Montenegro will submit to TCT Secretariat the prepared strategy and the corresponding table of concordance.
- Climate resilience. Improving transport resilience and deployment of alternative fuels still remain a challenge for the region, with limited progress reported. Serbia is the frontrunner and for 10 planned e-charging stations Tender Documents have been prepared. TCT Secretariat planned to start within this year Technical Assistance to prepare regional guidelines and methodologies to assess climate change and natural hazards on the road network.
 - Draft Memorandum of Understanding between General Directors of Road Authorities/Public Enterprises was prepared and distributed from TCT Secretariat for comments in December 2021. Positive feedback was received by the signatory parties. Revised version of MoU is prepared and will be topic of discussion in the upcoming Regional Steering Committee, on 15 March 2022.
5. RTC members were informed by Transport Community Permanent Secretariat that the Second Monitoring Report of implementation of Action Plans will include dedicated session on the current state of transposition of Annex I.3, Road Transport. TCT Secretariat is carrying out the first screening and request for information will be sent to RTC members to complete the missing gaps in close cooperation with other colleagues in the respective ministries dealing with road transport.
 6. RTC members welcomed the information on the Road Summit to take place on 7 June in Tirana. The Summit will be organised by Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, EIB and EBRD and hosted by Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania. The Road Summit will gather Ministers of the Western Balkans, EU Commissioners, representatives of the EU Member States, regional Institutions, to discuss on three elements of roads of the future:
 - Safe roads focusing on safe infrastructure, speed limits in urban areas and the importance of road safety data;
 - Smart roads focusing on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) deployment, e-tolling interoperability, data management and innovative solutions towards green mobility;
 - Sustainable roads focusing on climate proofing of road networks, deployment of emission zero fuels and infrastructure, like e-charging stations.
 7. RTC members welcomed the information on the Summer School that will take place in Sarajevo, from 21 June till 24 June with the focus on safe, smart and sustainable roads. Further details will be shared in the upcoming period.

8. RTC members welcomed the presentation of 4icom, the Consultant in charge to carry out an assessment of the current state of art and propose a roadmap for each Regional Partner and on regional level to achieve the e-tolling interoperability in the region. Roundtable will be organised with all the stakeholders after the completion of Task 2 of the assignment, SWOT analysis.
9. RTC members emphasised the need to visit and see in practice how e-tolling interoperability works in one of the best experience countries that will be recommended by the Consultant.
10. RTC members welcomed the presentation of EU CONNECTA, introducing the scope of work of Technical Assistance for the Deployment of Smart and Sustainable Mobility in the Western Balkans that started on 8th of March and Technical Assistance for preparation of ITS strategies in the pipeline to be start by end of March 2022. In addition, for the projects carried out under EU CONNECTA RTC members will be the focal point for the road related components.
11. RTC's members welcomed the presentation of the 5 year rolling plan and provided further clarifications on some of the road sections included in the mature and under preparation projects. Draft 5 year rolling plan, will be subject of the discussion in the upcoming Regional Steering Committee on 15 March 2022 and the comments received by Regional partners will be addressed.
12. RTC members re-emphasise the need to organise training dedicated to the Service Level Agreement. TCT Secretariat will explore the possibilities to organise it back to back with one of the Road Technical Committee and World Bank will support to invite the appropriate experts. In addition, related to maintenance training will be needed also for Road Asset management system (RAMS).
13. RTC members highly appreciated the site visit to the road section Smokovac - Matesevo organised with the support of Montenegro's Ministry of Capital Investments.
14. The next meeting will take place in person, on 7 June in Tirana, back to back with the Road Summit.