



16th Regional Steering Committee meeting

8 June 2022, Tirana, Rogner Hotel

Minutes and Conclusions

- A 16th Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting was held on 8 June 2022 in Tirana, in a hybrid form (participation in person and online).
- B All RSC members were present during the meeting as well as observers of the European Union Member States.
- C The meeting was chaired by Chair of the Regional Steering Committee, Mr Gjynejt Mustafa and Co-Chair, Ms Mona Bjorklund.
- Chair at the beginning of the meeting proposed that it would be good that the one of the next RSC meetings takes place in Brussels.
- D Agenda of the 16th RSC meeting was adopted.

1	<p>Orientation discussion on the outline of 2023 Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transport Community Permanent Secretariat (TCT Secretariat) presented first outline of the 2023 budget. The outline of Budget 2023 presents no significant changes compared to the 2022 Budget. In 2023 there will be more focus on capacity building activities for Regional Partners and technical assistance/studies, which shall be reflected in the Budget proposal for adoption. Consideration is given to accommodate in the Budget proposal the ongoing inflation trend in the region and European Union.• The proposed 2023 Budget amounts to EUR 3,060,000 representing a 2% increase compared to 2022. It shall be financed by contributions from the Contracting Parties in accordance with Annex V of the Treaty. Final 2023 budget will be presented for adoption to RSC in December.• The Chair asked for the status of secondment procedures and its implications to 2023 Budget. The draft Rules on secondment should be presented to RSC for adoption in October.• European Commission welcomed increase of support for capacity building in the 2023 Budget. <p>Conclusion: RSC welcomed the presented outline of TCT Secretariat's 2023 Budget and highlighted the importance to aim for its adoption at the last RSC meeting in 2022.</p>
2	<p>Information on progress on Technical Assistance for:</p> <p>i. e-freight</p>

	<p>ii. e-tolling</p> <p>iii. Transport facilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat presented information on the progress of technical assistances carried out within its 2021 budget, giving overview on: the scope of the technical assistance as well as next steps and deliverables for the baseline assessment and financial implications of e-tolling interoperability across the Western Balkans; overview on the technical assistance for capacity building in management and operations of the border crossing points along the indicative TEN-T Network in the Western Balkans, and the main objectives of technical assistance for deployment of e - freight in Western Balkans and implementation of the Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 on electronic freight transport information. • The Chair welcomed the presented capacity building exercises and expressed commitment and support of the Western Balkan region to consultant teams provided from TCT Secretariat's technical assistance. • The delegation of Serbia emphasised the importance of implementation of the initiated projects once their final reports and recommendations are submitted. • The delegation of Albania reiterated that combination of TCT technical assistance with CONNECTA projects is crucial to reach full implementation. <p>Conclusion: RSC acknowledged information on the progress of technical assistances financed from the Transport Community Budget 2021. RSC recommended to the Secretariat to present the final outcomes and next steps of the technical assistance projects in a summarised form in RSC meeting at the end of 2022.</p>
3	<p>Update on the Transport Observatory (TODIS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat reiterated that setting-up of the Transport Observatory remains a key priority for the Permanent Secretariat and important steps have been taken in this regard since the last update on the topic. Phase II is ongoing and is crucial for Transport Observatory deployment, in order in 2022 a key milestone to be reached: at the end of the year, Transport Observatory database to be set-up, populated with data and operational. TCT Secretariat thanked Regional Partners for their efforts and contributions in data collection. • Delegation of North Macedonia asked about the update of the system once the database is created and who would oversee it. TCT Secretariat answered that data update will be done through combination of bottom-up initiative and support and top-down data delivery. In the long term,

	<p>TODIS is expected to become the catalyst for a fundamental improvement of TEN-T data management in the region.</p> <p>Conclusion: RSC welcomed TCT Secretariat's efforts in completing TODIS Phase II which will enable Transport Observatory deployment. It is recommended to the TCT Secretariat to present the results of the ongoing Phase II at the first RSC meeting in 2023.</p>
4	<p>Update on the Level Crossings Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat informed RSC on the status of the Level Crossing Campaign. As continuation of the activities earmarking the Year of Rail, TCT Secretariat initiated activities dedicated to rail level crossings safety improvements with production of visual of the campaign, printed materials for potential drivers and students, online educational materials (presentation and documents) for social media and website, educational videos for social media and website and TV video for TV broadcast. Detailed timetable of visibility events for each Regional Partner was presented. • European Commission thanked TCT Secretariat for launching the level crossings campaign, noted its importance and fully supported its efforts in raising awareness in safety on level crossings. The Commission highlighted that support to infrastructure interventions in this area can be provided at the request of the Western Balkan partners through the 'Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme' financed by the EU under the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF). <p>Conclusion: RSC welcomed the presented information regarding the progress of Level Crossing Campaign. It recommended to TCT Secretariat that at the last RSC meeting in 2022 a summarised report is presented on the activities completed and outcomes in the frames of the Level Crossings Safety Campaign.</p>
5	<p>Presentation of Report of the Budget Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Secretariat informed RSC that the Annual Report of the Budget Committee for 2021 was endorsed by the Budget Committee members on 24 March 2022 and reflects its activities in the course of 2021. • Chair of the Budget Committee Ms Cristina Cuadra-Garcia gave a more detailed overview of the Annual Report for 2021. • European Commission thanked TCT Secretariat for good execution of the budget in 2021. • TCT Secretariat also informed about successful completion of audits for the accounts for year 2021. The report by the independent external auditor for the year 2021 was shared with the RSC on 8/6/2022. • TCT Secretariat presented the positive result of the independent external annual audit on the 2021 accounts, conducted by Crowe RS Advisory, which was designated by the Regional Steering Committee on 22.12.2021.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCT Secretariat took note of the nomination of a new member to the Budget Committee from the Republic of North Macedonia, Ms. Aleksandra Arsovska. <p>Conclusion: RSC welcomed the presentation of the Annual Report of the Budget Committee for 2021 and thanked all Members and Chair of Budget Committee for its work in 2021. RSC Members acknowledged the positive opinion as well express by the Auditor in the Audit Report for year 2021 accounts.</p>
6	<p>Mid-Year Report on the Annual Work Programme 2022</p> <p>In accordance with the Conclusions of the Regional Steering Committee meeting held on 16 December 2021, TCT Secretariat prepared the Mid-Year Report on the Annual Work Programme 2022, outlining key actions and achievements in the period from 1 January 2022 to 1 May 2022.</p> <p>Conclusion: RSC acknowledged the presentation of Mid-Year Report on the Annual Work Programme for 2022.</p>
7	<p>Presentation of the Draft Rules deriving from the Staff Regulations of the Transport Community:</p> <p>i. Rules of procedure of Conciliation Committee</p> <p>ii. Rules on Arbitration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCT Secretariat presented the first outline of the Rules of procedure of Conciliation Committee and Draft Rules on Arbitration as indicated in the Staff regulations of the Transport Community. During the discussion with the RSC members, it was agreed that decision-making in the appeal procedure in first instance and the second instance should be better defined and segregated to the extent possible. <p>Conclusion: RSC took note of presented outline of the Rules of procedure of Conciliation Committee and Rules on Arbitration and based on the discussion. It recommended to TCT Secretariat to further improve the text.</p>

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8	<p>Proposals for amendments to the rules:</p> <p>i. Rules of procedure of the Regional Steering Committee</p> <p>ii. Rules on reimbursement to persons invited to attend meetings in an expert capacity and Rules on reimbursement to persons outside of TCT Secretariat who are invited to participate in meetings of TC</p> <p>iii. Staff Regulations of the Transport Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCT Secretariat proposed to initiate changes to the Rules on reimbursement to persons outside of TCT Secretariat, who are invited to participate in meetings of TC, Rules on reimbursement to persons invited
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to attend meetings in an expert capacity, Staff Regulations and Rules of procedure of the Regional Steering Committee, to provide more clarity and allow their better practical implementation.

- TCT Secretariat announced that the vacancy for Desk Officer for transport acquis is going to be published in the week between 13-17/6
- TCT Secretariat reminded again on the TCT Summer School, which shall take place between 21-24 June in Sarajevo and Road Inspection Workshop, which shall take place in Skopje between 29 June-1 July, and that it would be highly appreciated if regional partners nominate participants to the TCT Secretariat.

Conclusion: RSC agreed that TCT Secretariat should start working on proposals for amendments to the Rules on reimbursement to persons outside of TCT Secretariat who are invited to participate in meetings of TC, Rules on reimbursement to persons invited to attend meetings in an expert capacity, Staff Regulations and Rules of procedure of the Regional Steering Committee.



Chair of the Regional Steering Committee

Mr Gjynejt Mustafa



Co - Chair of the Regional Steering Committee

Ms Mona Bjorklund

