

September 1 - 16 days to go until the **European Mobility Week**! The European Mobility Week is the **European Commission's** flagship awareness-raising campaign on sustainable urban mobility. It encourages behavioural change in favor of active mobility, public transport and other clean, intelligent transport solutions. The annual 2022 theme is **'Better connections'**. With more towns and cities joining each year, the campaign continues to drive Europe, and beyond, toward sustainable urban mobility. Last year 55 cities and towns in the Western Balkans participated at the European Mobility. Towns and cities can register their permanent measure, sustainable mobility activity or a car free day here: <https://mobilityweek.eu/register-for-mobilityweek/>. The Transport Community Permanent Secretariat will also move sustainably in September. **Stay tuned for news on the first green employee of the month!**



On 30 August, Director Zakonjšek participated in the **Bled Strategic Forum 2022: The rule of power or the power of rules?**, a platform that gathers participants from various fields with diverse knowledge who exchange views and seek innovative solutions to contemporary and future political, security, strategic and developmental challenges. Director Zakonjšek took part in the panel discussion **"Sustainable business models: From theory to action"** together with other prominent panellists from automotive industry, innovation technology companies and sustainable business networks.

On 18 August, the Transport Community Secretariat representatives met in Niš their counterparts from the **Faculty of Mechanical Engineering** as a follow-up of the ongoing cooperation between both institutions. The hosts presented latest achievements and ongoing innovation project results mostly related to the railway automatisisation process. During the meeting, both parties discussed details of the forthcoming **International Rail Conference (RAILCON 2022)**, which will be held in Niš this autumn where the latest railway system researches will be shown.





The Transport Community continues with activities aimed at emphasising the importance of rail safety, particularly when it comes to level crossings. Alongside with the media campaign on the safety of the level crossings, the Transport Community Secretariat has prepared an analysis to prioritise the level crossings for their future improvement based on the risks they carry. Based on that, the Regional Partners can improve the safety level by investing in safety equipment or denivelation.

From 24 until 25 August 2022, **Transport Community Permanent Secretariat was visited by European Agency for Railways representative**. These two days were used for discussions related to the cooperation between both organisations on possibility for creation of a railway training centre of excellence, further cooperation between national investigation bodies and rail transport of dangerous goods.

Staff working document of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, *Strategy for sustainable and smart mobility in the Western Balkans* is providing the Western Balkans region with a roadmap for decarbonisation and digitalisation of its transport sector (<https://www.transport-community.org/strategy-for-sustainable-and-smart-mobility-in-the-western-balkans-2/>). In line with this, Permanent Secretariat undertook activities to support developments of the Western Balkans region with providing several technical assistances:



Technical Assistance for the Deployment of smart and sustainable mobility in the Western Balkans, consisting of two components, both aiming to support the Smart and Sustainable mobility in all Western Balkans. The results of the project shall quantify the costs and the effects of measures, which will help implementation of the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for the Western Balkans and a strategic framework for the deployment of e-charging stations in the Western Balkans. The activities are expected to be completed in the course of 2023.

The **Technical assistance for deployment of e - freight in Western Balkans and implementation of the Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 on electronic freight transport information** is setting the basis in achieving an interoperable electronic freight information exchange system and enabling wider use of digital technologies for fulfilling regulatory information requirements. As a result, administrative burden for logistics operators will be reduced, and multimodal transport facilitated. This technical assistance is expected to present the best practice examples of the European Union institutional and legal framework, further analyse the state of play of the Regional Partners and develop a gap analysis, assess the economic and environmental impacts and propose implementation plan for gradual deployment of e-freight Regulation within the Western Balkans region. The activities are expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

The **Technical assistance for baseline assessment and financial implications to e-tolling interoperability across the Western Balkans** is aimed at supporting the Regional Parties by reaching two objectives: to fulfil the obligations derived from the Transport Community Treaty related to Road User Charging of the Road Infrastructure (RUC and to enable E-toll interoperability in the region in a way that a road user can travel seamlessly in the whole region. This technical assistance will provide assessment of the current systems, identify gaps, analyse strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of e-tolling interoperability in Western Balkans and give best practices from EU, and develop assessment on the impact of a Common e-tolling framework in the Western Balkans. The activities are in the final stage and the results will be presented in the *'Effective Road Charging Strategies on a region on the Move'* Conference to take place in Belgrade on 5 and 6 October 2022, back to back with Road Technical Committee and Tolling interoperability stakeholder group.

Transport Community Permanent Secretariat continues with actions aimed at removing non-physical barriers along the main transport and trade corridors across the Western Balkans and linking Western Balkans to EU Member States as well as supporting actions, which will lead to reducing physical barriers with modernization and capacity improvements of the crossing points and improving the border management, with a view of establishing one stop controls. This is exactly the aim of the ongoing CONNECTA TA for preparation of technical documentation (design) for two BCPs on the extended TEN-T Network in the Western Balkans (Hani i Hotit/Bozaj and Hani i Elezit/Blace). The main outcome of this activity which is expected to be completed by end March 2023, are prepared designs for physical interventions (engineering works) and tender specifications for procurement of equipment to be installed and made operational on the selected border points.

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** aims to support completion of the legal framework for the Regional Participants for introducing joint or one stop control systems at the road and rail BCPs, and to assist them in setting the appropriate institutional framework. In parallel, intention is to increase the capacities of the central bodies and of the border agencies in performing joint border controls with specific, tailored- made trainings. This activity is expected to be completed by end of 2022 and as a result of it, it is expected that in 2023 bilateral agreements shall be signed and a few BCP pairs are set to operate as joint BCPs with joint controls being performed.



A **Workshop on enforcement of road transport of dangerous goods rules** will be held in Bucharest, Romania, on 5-7 September 2022. The representatives of the Ministries and the inspection officers from the Regional Partners will benefit from an exchange of experience organized in cooperation with the State Inspectorate for Road Transport Control and the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure in Romania bearing upon the implementation of the Council Directive 95/50/EC of 6 October 1995 on uniform procedures for checks on the transport of dangerous goods by road.