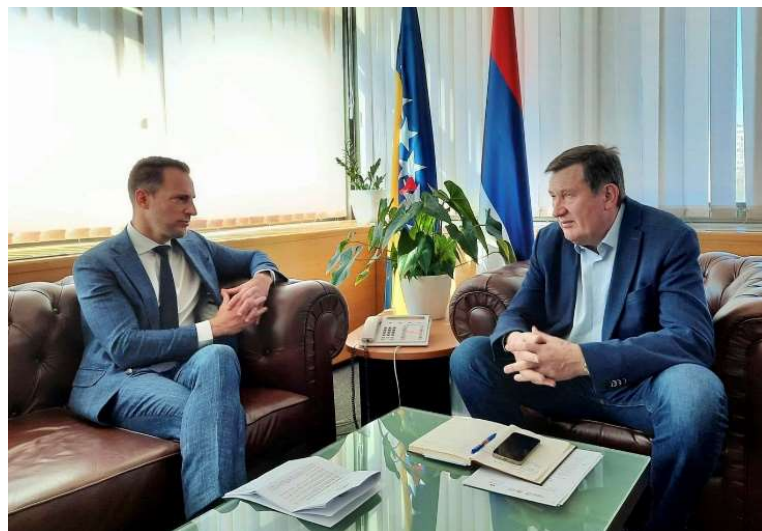


On April 7, the announcement was made of the opening of the **first priority truck lane dedicated to the Green Lanes in the Western Balkans at the border crossing Presevo -Tabanovce**. A sign “Green Lane” has been placed on the entry point of the border crossing. The priority lane is intended for CEFTA priority goods and it allows priority passage of vehicles carrying this type of goods. Vehicles need to be appropriately marked to be able to use the lane. Holders of Authorised Economic Operator authorisations (AEO) from Albania, North Macedonia, and Serbia, as well as economic operators (importers, exporters, transporters, freight-forwarders) from these three countries can use the priority lane. Another important milestone for connectivity in the Western Balkans was made possible with a strong regional commitment, streamlined coordination done by the leading three regional organisations (TCT, RCC, and CEFTA) and by endorsing joint proposals at the highest political level.



During a **visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina** on 19 April, Director Zakonjšek met in Sarajevo with the Minister of Communications and Transport of Mr Vojin Mitrović to discuss joint events planned for this year, regional connectivity and transport infrastructure projects in

BiH connected to the European Commission's Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans. The meeting was an opportunity to review progress on infrastructure projects on Corridor Vc – Svilaj, Gradiška bridge and associated border crossing with Croatia, as well as investments in railways. One of the joint initiatives planned for 2022 is the regional campaign aimed at raising awareness about dangers of level crossings. The campaign will be promoted with visibility events planned in all six regional partners.





On 19 April, Deputy Director Siljanoska opened a **regional working meeting in Belgrade dedicated to the opening of the Western Balkans railway market.** The meeting was an opportunity for participants from railway undertakings and institutions from Montenegro and Serbia to discuss how to advance the regional transport policy and contribute to building a sustainable rail transport systems in line with the EU standards.

Perspectives of the Common Regional Market & the

Green Agenda for the Western Balkans were presented to Prime Ministers' sherpas during a meeting in Brussels on 20 April. Transport Community reiterated commitment to reducing the waiting times and increasing capacity at borders, as well as to capacity building and extending the Green Lanes to borders with the EU.



On 20 April, the European Maritime



Safety Agency hosted the Transport Community's **2nd meeting of the Technical Committee on Waterborne Transport and Multimodality.** Development of waterborne transport, in parallel with rail remains a priority for the Western Balkans in efforts to contribute to greening of freight transport. During the month of April, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat continued **collaborating with regional organisations on joint initiatives.** Synergies are essential for effective capacity building assistance in the Western Balkans. On 15

April, we discussed the possibilities for cooperation with the new Director of the Regional School for Public Administration (ReSPA) Director Maja Handjiska-Trendafilova and her team.

Transport Community delegation **visited North Macedonia** on 28-29 April for a series of high-level meetings focused on infrastructure projects realised with the EU assistance. **Meeting with Minister of Transport and Communications Blagoj Bochvarski** was an opportunity to coordinate plans for main events of the year – Ministerial Council in Pristina, launch of the public awareness campaign on level crossings in Skopje and the Road Summit in Tirana. Interlocutors focused on key project of the European Commission's Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans - rail Corridor VIII connecting Adriatic and Black seas via Albania, North Macedonia and Bulgaria. Director Zakonjšek highlighted the potential of this project to bring the region closer together and strengthen its ties with the EU. During **meetings with Parliament Speaker Talat Dzaferi, Prime Minister Dimitar Kovacevski and Deputy Prime Minister on EU Affairs Bojan Maricic**, TCT Delegation presented the work of our organisation and the need for high-level political support to move ahead on our joint agendas. A day before the visit to North Macedonia, Director Zakonjšek **met in Podgorica with the former Minister of Capital Investments Mladen Bojanić** to thank him for the progress made in just one year on key connectivity projects and policy reforms in Montenegro.

