



Highlight event of the month May was the Transport Community Ministerial Council, which took place on 18 May in Pristina where the ministers in charge of transport met for discussions on the **extension of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) to the Western Balkans**. Transport Community's Five-year rolling work plan for the development of the indicative TEN-T extension was endorsed at the Ministerial Council. The document highlights importance of regionally coordinated projects that will help the region achieve transition to an integrated transport

network and better connect the regional transport market with the EU's. A day before the Ministerial Council, Transport Community delegation visited the main train station as well as construction site Miradi with Minister Liburn Aliu. This EU co-funded project, key point on rail Route X, will mean improved connections for more passengers and freight, shift to rail and better regional connectivity with North Macedonia and Serbia.



On 19 May, the Five Year Work Plan was presented to the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) financiers group in Belgrade, where it was highlighted the importance of regionally coordinated infrastructure projects that will help Western Balkans achieve an integrated transport network and better connect the regional transport market with the EU.



On 9 May, **Europe Day**, with Macedonian Ministers of Interior and Transport, Oliver Spasovski and Blagoj Bocvarski, in the transport high school "Vlado Tasevski" in Skopje **the level crossings awareness raising campaign** was launched that specifically targets youth and highlights importance of road safety at intersections of roads and railways in the region. The marking of Europe Day continued in Ohrid, where 2nd meeting of the Western Balkans Railway Infrastructure Managers Network was organised. The meeting focused on future opportunities for education and possibilities for establishing

regional center of excellence to support region's administrative capacity building. In a separate meeting with the Ohrid Harbour Captain Goran Ustijanovski, Director Zakonjšek discussed alignment EU legislation for waterborne transport and tourist potential of Lake Ohrid, one of the oldest European lakes.

Productive cooperation with regional partner Montenegro was main topic of courtesy meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Capital Investments Ervin Ibrahimović on 13 May in Podgorica. Interlocutors discussed flagship infrastructure projects in Montenegro such as rail routes Bar-Belgrade and Tirana-Podgorica, roads Sarajevo-Podgorica and Budva bypass, policy reforms in chapters 14 and 21, as well as Montenegro's upcoming Presidency of Transport Community's Regional Steering Committee.



On 11 May in Sarajevo, the Transport Community organised **3rd Social Forum** and for the first time included **workshop on social dialogue** focused on road transport, which will serve as guideline for the regional partners in Western Balkans to engage further with all stakeholders. The Minister of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vojin Mitrović, opened the **Social Forum** together with Director Zakonjšek, who noted that for the Transport Community it is a matter of priority to improve working conditions for all modes of transport. Social Forum conclusions can be found at: <https://www.transport-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Social-Forum-Conclusions.pdf>

Our focus on social issues was reiterated in Transport Community's May Day message focused on advocating for improved staff safety, managing the ageing work force and recruiting young people. To emphasise the **constructive role of young people** not only in transport, but in all spheres of life, we met on 20 May with the **Young European Ambassadors**. During the **EU Year of Youth**, Transport Community will continue reaching out to youth across the region and advocating for young people's access to reliable information to make informed choices concerning environmental and climate change, areas in which transport plays a crucial role.



At the European Council COWEB meeting held on 5 May in Brussels, Transport Community's role in **bringing Western Balkans closer to EU was presented**, with focus on investments in flagship projects and transport policy reforms.

6th session of committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods was held on 19 May in Skopje. Participants discussed implementation of Directive 2008/68/EC, enforcement in Western Balkans of road transport of dangerous goods rules according to Directive 95/50/EC and the upcoming workshop in Romania.

As core port of extended TEN-T network towards Western Balkans, WB Port of Durres and Port of Bar are expected to comply with key performance indicators of TEN-T. To address a key challenge in this process - availability of alternative clean fuels – Transport Community organised a **workshop hosted by the Piraeus Port Authority** on 20 May.



During the 23 May European Rail Supply Industry Association (UNIFE) **web event dedicated to rail integration through investments and reform**, Director Zakonjšek noted Transport Community's focus on upcoming flagship rail projects and took stock of the ongoing extension of Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) to Western Balkans.

Since the start of covid pandemic, 2 million trucks crossed Western Balkans Green Lanes. This milestone was marked with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Central European Free Trade Agreement as jointly we continue working on reducing waiting times & removing barriers to trade. Take a look at the video produced on this occasion: <https://bit.ly/3wAp5Ii>



On 25 May in Vienna, at the invitation of the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), hosted by the South East Europe Strategic Alliance for Rail Innovation (SEESARI), Transport Community presented 5-year work plan for bringing rail back on track in Western Balkans and highlighted innovation as key element of efficient and modern railway. The **SEE Digital Automatic Coupling Forum "Delivering Digital Automatic Coupling in Europe – transformation of rail freight"** addressed the importance

of introduction of Digital Automatic Coupling (DAC) in entire Europe by 2030.

Technical assistance projects for connectivity reforms in Western Balkans were presented on 27 May from Transport Community Headquarters. "Greening" of transport in line with our Sustainable Mobility Strategy for the Western Balkans, modernisation of road border crossings and intelligent transport systems (ITS) strategies for regional partners are in focus of currently ongoing technical assistance projects financed by European Union through the CONNECTA instrument.

On 15 May, Transport Community team proudly joined #TeamEurope and **participated in this year's Belgrade Marathon**.

