9th Road Technical Committee meeting

5 - 6 October 2022

Agreed Conclusions

1. Members of the Road Technical Committee (RTC) welcomed the opening remarks by Mr. Matej Zakonjšek, TCT Secretariat Director. Mr Zakonjšek pointed out that Second year Progress Report which is currently being prepared by the TCT Secretariat shows progress that varies by each set measures of Road Action Plan. Whereas progress in ITS deployment is good, it is moderate in climate resilience and alternative fuels and stagnant in maintenance. Mr Zakonjšek pointed out that TEN-T Development Annual Report highlighted again the need to proper finance and maintain road infrastructure.

2. Chair of the Technical Committee, Mr. Naim Kelmendi, welcomed the participants and wished a fruitful meeting.

3. Agenda of the meeting was adopted, with amended timeslot for the information on the smart tachographs cards.

4. RTC members welcomed information provided by TCT Secretariat on the draft paper "Mutual Assistance regarding smart tachograph cards in the framework of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community (TCT)" prepared by the European Commission. The document ensures a possibility for the Regional Partners to be offered assistance from EU Member States in case of crisis of tachograph cards. The Draft Discussion Paper suggests transitional period of 6+6 months for South East European Parties for transitioning from the digital non-smart tachograph to the smart tachograph system.

5. TCT Secretariat presented the progress on the implementation of Road Action Plan. It is noted that the overall progress is slow to moderate, and more efforts are needed to meet the deadlines. RTC members agreed with the findings of the monitoring report and provided few additional information as follows:
   o Albania. Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy requested Albanian Road Authority that all petrol stations shall be prepared for installing e-charging points and an inspection will take place shortly.
   o Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that JP Autoceste FBiH plans to put in place RAMS by the end of March 2023.
   o Serbia finalised tender for 10 additional e-chargers, deadline for completion of the project is mid 2023.

TCT Secretariat invited all Regional Partners to submit the latest changes in writing latest by 15 October 2022.

6. RTC Members welcomed the presentation of TCT Secretariat on TEN-T Annual Report for the Road Sector. TEN-T road network assessment shows uneven TEN-T compliance rate, insufficient maintenance and project implementation record which should improve. Coordinated action is required for addressing the horizontal compliance criteria under the dedicated Road and Road Safety Action Plans. Regional Partners were urged to deliver to TCT Secretariat their contributions and updates for the TEN-T Annual Report by 10 October.

7. RTC Members welcomed TCT Secretariat's presentation on monitoring of Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy for Western Balkans, its objectives and roadmap. The separate monitoring Report on SSMS will be finalised in December 2022.

8. RTC members welcomed the presentation of Team Leader, Mr Emmanuel Grandserre (4icom), on the current progress of e-tolling interoperability contract. It is reiterated that interested parties should set up common framework of technical rules and common operation procedures to apply in the whole WB region. This should be achieved through multilateral agreement or set of bilateral agreements in the region.

9. RTC members welcomed the presentation of EU CONNECTA's team on the current state of play of Component 2 of Technical Assistance for the Deployment of Smart and Sustainable Mobility in the Western Balkans. Regarding Strategic framework for e-charging infrastructure, Component 2 requires extension of certain deadlines due to changes in the Consultant's team. It was noted that all Regional Partners should align their transport strategies with the results of these studies.

10. CONNECTA team presented state of play regarding the implementation of Technical Assistance for preparation of ITS strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo[*] (all modes), Albania (railway and maritime) and Montenegro (railway) and deployment of road traffic management centers in Bosnia Herzegovina and Kosovo.

11. RTC Members acknowledged Slovenian model of Road Asset Management System given by Mr Andrej Zajec, Dars d.d. motorway company. In Slovenia, multiannual budget planning (3years) is in place which is being updated on yearly basis. Reconstruction works programme, and challenges from the current practice were presented.

12. TCT Secretariat announced events in the course of 2022, as follows:
    o   30 November - 01 December (tbc), a training co-organised by TCT Secretariat, University of Zagreb and PE "Highways" will take place in Zagreb;
    o   Technical committee meeting in first week of December, date to be confirmed, in Brussels with focus on EU legislation and transposition process.

---

[*] 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.

13. TCT Secretariat presented the planned activities for 2023, as follows:
     o Study visit on e-tolling interoperability;
     o ITS regional conference to present the ongoing ITS strategies in the region;
     o First annual meeting of directors of road authorities, based on signed MoU.
     o 3 technical committee meetings are planned, 2 in the region and 1 in Brussels (tbc). Potential dates 23 February Prishtina, 21 June Skopje or Tirana, 5 October Belgrade or Brussels.
14. The next meeting will take place in person in Brussels, date to be confirmed.