



During the **European Mobility Week 16–22 September**, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat participated and supported activities in the three cities, Sarajevo, Podgorica, Elbasan in the Western Balkans that are part of the EU Mission for 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030. On 18 September in **Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina** TCT Secretariat delegation took part in the traditional Giro di Sarajevo cycling event. We joined hundreds of cyclists who rode through the city to promote sustainable transport and Sarajevo as a

bike-friendly city. Participation in the EU programme Missions for 100 climate neutral and smart cities by 2030 will give Sarajevo an opportunity to improve cycling infrastructure that will lower CO2 emissions and reduce air pollution in the city.

In **Podgorica, Montenegro** on 19 September in the panel titled “Sustainable mobility in Podgorica”, organised by the EU Delegation in Montenegro, Director of TCT Secretariat Zakonjšek spoke about the Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy in the Western Balkans and its implications for promoting sustainable urban mobility at the local level. An engaging debate followed after the panel that underlined that cyclists need a modern public transport network such as cycling lanes, charging stations, park+ride options. The last stop was **Elbasan, Albania’s** fourth largest city. TCT Secretariat delegation met with the Mayor, Mr Gledian Llatja, with whom



issues on cycling and safe bike lanes were discussed. The meeting discussion brought attention to the need to create better cycling infrastructure especially for the youngest citizens. Mayor and TCT Director after the meeting participated in the race on bicycles with enthusiastic young cyclists.

On 5-7 September, supported by Romanian partners at the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, TCT Secretariat organised a **workshop dedicated to enforcement of road transport of dangerous goods**

(TDG) for six regional partners from the Western Balkans. The need for proper controls of transport of goods that can pose dangers was highlighted as essential for safety of people, property and environment. On the second day of training, Romanian petrol producing company Petrom OMV offered the participants invaluable practical demonstration of targeted check of tanks carrying the most frequently transported dangerous goods – benzene, diesel and GPL.



On 27 September, Deputy Director Ljupka Siljanoska met in Warsaw with the Deputy Minister Rafal Weber at the headquarters of the Polish Ministry of Infrastructure. This opportunity was used to **thank Poland for providing expert support to the Western**

Balkans regional partners on road transport inspections and discuss the possibilities for further streamlined cooperation. The visit in Warsaw was used as well to take part in the celebration of the 20. anniversary of the Polish State Inspectorate, which provided expert support to two regional trainings of road inspectors of the Western Balkans.



On 9 September, the customs representatives of Albania, Montenegro and Italy signed in Rome the Memorandums of Understanding on the electronic data exchange. By **establishing CEFTA-TCT Green Lanes within the Western Balkans**, and then on borders with the EU, **the region is getting closer to the EU**. Extending the concept to seas and establishing the first **“Blue Lane”** aims to **bolster multimodal transport and trade flows between the**

region and the EU. This cooperation will serve not only Albania and Montenegro, but also other Western Balkans partners that will use ports in Albania and Montenegro for trade. Establishment of the IT infrastructure is ongoing, and it is expected that the system will be operational in autumn.

Ports of Durres and Bar should become multimodal, green transportation nodes of the region connecting economies and people. For this to happen, modern rail links are essential. Potential of region’s port to be drivers of growth and sustainable development was discussed at this year’s **Tirana Connectivity Forum 26-28 September**, an event in which TCT Secretariat now traditionally takes an active part.

In September, TCT Secretariat organised joint workshops, one at the Karakaj/Mali Zvornik and Kotroman/Vardiste border crossing points between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and one at Hani i Hotit/Bozaj between Albania and Montenegro. With that TCT Secretariat continues to support the Western Balkans partners to **improve the situation at region’s borders** with joint controls, use of digital instruments and better communication of border agencies. One-stop border crossings in addition to updated and modern infrastructure will improve efficiency of border agencies and reduce formalities. On **22 September** in Ulcinj, Montenegro, **11th meeting of Transport facilitation technical committee took place**.

13th session of Technical committee on railways was organised in Tirana on 21 September to discuss implementation of Rail Action Plan, TEN-T Progress Report, safety of level crossings in the region and activities planned until end of 2022.