



On 9 December, Transport Community reached another important milestone of 2022. With the signing of Memorandum of Understanding by customs administrators of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Montenegro, **Green Lanes with the European Union were further extended.** The initiative for extending Green Lanes towards EU Member States began in July this year with the establishment of the electronic exchange of data between North Macedonia and Greece and continued with establishment of Blue Lanes between Albania, Montenegro and Italy in

September. The signing of the latest Memorandum of Understanding enabled speeding up of customs procedures and other formalities at crossings between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Montenegro. This represents a steppingstone to even better managed borders and will decrease waiting times for transport of freight. The Transport Community will continue supporting all parties to further extend the Green Lanes. During the **meeting with Serbia's Minister of Trade Tomislav Momirović**, it was agreed that trucks and cars wait too long at the border crossings and that further efforts need to be made to reduce waiting times and increase capacity of BCP. **Extension of Green Lanes to all borders between EU and the Western Balkans and establishment of one-stop crossings**, would reduce the waiting times. On 8 December, Director Matej Zakonjšek participated in the **expert panel** organised by the Central European Initiative in Brussels to share insights on our work in Western Balkans to enhance connectivity, facilitate border procedures and drive the region's economic development.

Transport Community welcomed the [agreement](#) reached on 5 December by the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Transport), enabling the EU to build a sustainable and smart trans-European transport network (TEN-T). With the decision, the **first Western Balkans European Transport Corridor** got a step closer to becoming reality. Through inland waterways and roads, rail freight and passengers, ports and airports, and rail-road terminals, it will connect seven European Union member states (Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Austria and Slovenia) with the Western Balkans into one region. Unequivocal support for connectivity was expressed also at the **EU – Western Balkans Summit** in Tirana. It was the first time the meeting was held in the region. European leaders welcomed the progress made on key connectivity projects and will continue supporting Western Balkans partners in advancing the twelve newly approved investment projects.



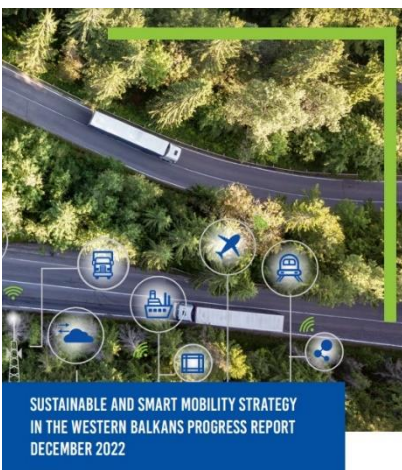


In December, the Secretariat organised in Brussels a series of technical committees. The first, **technical committee on railway**, met on 1 December for productive talks on plans for next year, including the Digital Automatic Coupling for rail freight in Western Balkans and the rail track monitoring train that would inspect the state of region's railways. Important discussions with road safety experts took place on 6 December during the **road safety technical committee**. The discussion reflected on the progress regarding implementation of the action plan on road safety in the Western Balkans. The Commission gave a state of play of planned proposals to revise rules on driving licenses, the cross-border enforcement of road traffic rules, and

vehicle roadworthiness. The partners from the Western Balkans also had the opportunity to **visit the Belgian road safety institute, VIAS**, for an introduction to its knowledge institute and a hands-on introduction to its work in assessing medical fitness to drive, adherence to drink-driving rules, and the testing of helmets. On 14-16 December in Antwerp, the Secretariat organised a joint meeting of **technical committees on transport of dangerous goods and waterborne transport and multimodality**, as well as a meeting on electronic freight transport information. The aim of the meetings was to ensure cross-sectoral cooperation in order to stimulate integrative thinking in the administrations of the regional partners based on the Belgian model. Antwerp, as one of the biggest ports in the EU, presented its current flagship projects for development and research. Site visits to the port were organised, as well as discussions with Belgian experts.

On 21 December, Transport Community delegation participated in a **study visit on digital tachographs in Slovenia** for sharing of best practices on the preparation of smart tachographs for better working and safer conditions in the road transport sector.

Transport Community's **cooperation with Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine** officially began with introductory meetings on 7 December (with Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Spiniu), 14 December (with Georgian Deputy Minister Guram Guramishvili) and 22 December (with Director at Ukrainian Ministry of Infrastructure Iryna Kucheruk). The meetings set the course for alignment of three countries' transport legislation to that of the EU, efficient and safe transport and connectivity projects.



Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community met in Belgrade and online on 15 December. In addition to important discussions about the 2022 budget, three reports produced by the Secretariat were presented:

- [Sustainable and Smart Mobility – Progress Report](#)
- [Report on Dangerous Goods](#)
- [Report on Level Crossings Safety](#)
- [Report on Passenger Rights and Accessibility](#)

The meeting was also an opportunity to **welcome the observing participants Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Georgia as we look ahead to new connectivity opportunities and challenges in 2023! Happy Holidays!**