



SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN PARTIES DEDICATION TO ROADS OF THE FUTURE

SHAPING THE FUTURE – SAFE, SMART AND SUSTAINABLE ROADS



7 JUNE 2022
WESTERN BALKANS ROAD SUMMIT
TIRANA

South East European Parties Dedication to Roads of the future

Western Balkans Road Summit, 7 June 2022, Tirana

Building upon, *Transport Community Treaty signed on 9 October 2017 by all partners (Council Decision (EU) 2019/392);*

Whereas, *the Transport Community is based on the progressive integration of transport markets of the South East European Parties into the EU transport market based on the relevant acquis, including the areas of technical standards, interoperability, safety, security, traffic management, social policy, public procurement, and environment, for all modes of transport excluding air transport, aiming to create a Transport Community in the field of road, rail, inland waterway and maritime transport as well as the development of the transport network between the European Union and South East European Parties;*

Reconfirming, *Road and Road Safety Action Plans endorsed by the Transport Community Ministerial Council on 26 October 2020, as guiding documents for the development of climate resilient, intelligent, and resource-efficient indicative TEN-T extension of the road network to Western Balkans by incorporating green and smart elements in road investments and at the same time promoting safety management, safer infrastructure, and protection of road users;*

Taking into consideration, *the European Commission Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans published in October 2020 aiming to support the improvement of the road infrastructure in the times of green and digital transition;*

Acknowledging, *Sofia Leaders Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, European Commission Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy and Western Balkans' response to EU Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy that the transport system of the future needs to be green, smart, sustainable, inclusive and social;*

Considering, *the commitments taken by Western Balkans 6 (WB6) under the Connectivity Agenda agreed in Vienna in 2015, monitored earlier through the Connectivity Reform Measures Management Plan.*

Hereby, the Transport Ministers of the South East European Parties of the Transport Community, meeting at the Road Summit in Tirana on 7 June 2022, reconfirm their commitment to build together safer, smart and sustainable roads.

Therefore, they commit to:

- ❖ Continue investing in the development of the indicative extension of TEN-T Road Network in full compliance with TEN-T standards targeting Core Network completion by 2030 and Comprehensive Network by 2050;
- ❖ Engage additional efforts to set in place efficient road maintenance systems by 2024;
- ❖ Adopt Intelligent Transport System (ITS) strategies in line with EU principles by mid-2023;
- ❖ Establish ITS Access Point and Bodies in compliance with ITS Directive 2010/40/EU by 2024;
- ❖ Deploy Intelligent Transport Systems as a tool to attain safer, better and interoperable road services in the region compliant with EU standards;
- ❖ Work together to ensure e-tolling interoperability across the region by 2024 in compliance with EU principles and standards;
- ❖ Deploy e-charging stations on the indicative extension of TEN-T Road Core Network by 2024 and on Comprehensive Road Network by 2050;
- ❖ Promote and enhance the use of other alternative fuels in close cooperation with other stakeholders;
- ❖ Improve road network climate resilience based on common guidelines and methodology to assess climate change and natural hazard vulnerability;
- ❖ Work together and share the road safety responsibilities, by taking concrete and joint actions by all stakeholders in their areas of responsibility;
- ❖ Adopt the Vision Zero perspective and the Safe System approach when developing road safety strategies and policies, aiming to prevent severe crash outcomes when inevitable human errors on the roads occur;
- ❖ Identify the most dangerous sections of the road network and increase the safety of Level Crossings where happen the most fatal and serious accidents;
- ❖ Improve the safety of vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists) by appropriate infrastructure design and speed management;
- ❖ Work together on making road sector a socially fair one, by focusing on workers' fundamental rights and healthy and safe working environment;
- ❖ Promote and ensure a more inclusive, diverse and gender balanced road sector;
- ❖ Exploit the opportunities offered by digitalisation and innovation to attract young people and women to the sector and to improve services for businesses and people.

The Transport Ministers invite industry in cooperation with civil society to engage in ensuring that new services and systems are secure, compatible, interoperable and as per European standards.

The Transport Ministers highlight the importance of continuous work and cooperation to green and digitalise road infrastructure and operations and take note of the contributions and commitments made by stakeholders prior to and during the Western Balkans Road Summit 2022.

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