



In the last eight years, 47 persons lost their lives and 131 were seriously injured on intersections of railways and roads in Serbia. To raise awareness about the dangers and proper ways to behave at level crossings, Transport Community initiated a **regional campaign “It’s a Thin Line”**, which in Serbia was officially launched on 18 January 2023 at the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering together with the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure. Minister Vesić stated that out of more than 2100 level crossings in the country, just around 400 are equipped with “active” protection consisting of sounds, lights or barriers. Together with the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the process to upgrade 400 more level crossings has already begun. “Transport Community public awareness campaign goes hand in hand with infrastructure improvements and will

contribute to Vision Zero - no more deaths or serious injuries on level crossings in the near future,” Director Zakonjšek said. Serbia has an ambitious plan for the renewal of rail infrastructure with a number of projects that will be implemented in the coming period. Nis-Dimitrovgrad, Subotica – Horgoš, Belgrade – Šid and Belgrade – Tabanovce sections will be completed in the near future and will include upgrading or removal of level crossings.

Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure of Kosovo* Liburn Aliu hosted this year’s first **high level meeting** with representatives of the Secretariat on 13 to discuss plans for 2023, with special focus on **EU Acquis transposition in the area of road safety and rail**. Transport Community stressed again its support to the application of the safe system approach to pave the way to Vision Zero, as well as developing policies designed to reduce road traffic crashes and social economic costs of fatalities and serious injuries during the **9th International Road Safety Conference in Pristina** on 25 January 2023.



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



On 19 January 2023, Transport Community representatives met with the Director of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) Emir Djikic to discuss the upcoming **Connectivity Summit**. The Summit, which will take place in May 2023 in Montenegro, will gather high officials and relevant stakeholders from the region and neighboring EU Member States, to discuss how to enhance the connectivity within the region and with the EU. By opening the joint rail station in Bijelo Polje, Montenegro and Serbia will showcase a perfect example of a cross-border project which will improve connectivity along the entire rail

corridor, increase the efficiency of the rail and logistic operations, and further boost the attractiveness of the railway transport.

As part of strategic planning for the year, Transport Community and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung representatives met on 17 January to discuss the Connectivity Agenda in the Western Balkans and potential for future cooperation.



Rail directors of Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia met in Zagreb on 25 January to discuss the **possibilities for restoring the passenger train connection Ljubljana - Zagreb – Belgrade**. All sides expressed readiness to work towards making this goal reality.



Hosted by the Swedish Presidency, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat Director Matej Zakonjšek **presented the numerous activities that the Transport Community finalised in 2022**, as well as **outlined the priorities for 2023 to the EU Member States' representatives in the European Council**. Zakonjšek highlighted the positive developments on the infrastructure side, which resulted in the improvement of projects and TEN-T compliance. Following the addition of new observing participants to the Transport Community, the Secretariat will continue delivering on their closer association.

The first **meetings with Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine** already took place and their representatives joined as observing participants during the December Regional Steering Committee meeting. In the coming weeks, the Secretariat of the Transport Community will finalise a more detailed outline of the elements under the structured cooperation between the Secretariat and the observing participants.