

**Hybrid Meeting – Pristina, Sirius Hotel
22 February 2023 09:30 - 16:30**

Draft Conclusions

1. The Agenda of the 15th Meeting of the Technical Committee on Railway was adopted unanimously.

Administrative matters:

2. TC on Railways elected new Chair for the 2023. Mr Bankovic Milan from Montenegro was elected as Chair. At the same time, all RPs expressed appreciation to Ms Teodora Milenkovic who acted as the previous chair of the TC on Railway.
3. On behalf of Kosovo*, new members are Ms Valerie Bojku and Mr Sefedin Sefaj.
4. On behalf of Georgia, the meeting was attended by Mr Erekle Kezherashvili, Ms Tinatin Katsitadze and Kakhaber Tkhinvaleli, nominated as members of the TC on Railway.
5. On behalf of Moldova, Mr Vasile Codreanu attended the meeting. Mr Codreanu is a nominated member of TC on Railway.

Expert discussion - activities between the two TCs:

6. The TC Secretariat Deputy Director informed all participants about the changes in the structure of the Transport Community. In the coming TC meetings, Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova will have the status of observing participants and they will be invited to take part in all future meetings, trainings and workshops in that capacity.
7. The Calendar of the TCT events for 2023 is fully synchronized with the ERA calendar. A draft Calendar will be delivered to all participants attached to these conclusions.
8. All Regional and Observing participants acknowledged the information regarding the revision of the Rail Action Plan. In October this year, the third Report on the Implementation of the current Rail Action Plan will be published and the revised Rail Action Plan will be adopted. It is necessary to exclude everything what has so far been done and to refresh it with new actions related to the legislation stemming from Annex I.2.
9. All participants expressed satisfaction with the presentation given by Ms Kornelija VASAUSKAITE from DG MOVE regarding the establishment and implementation of solidarity lanes mechanisms. At the same time, Ms VASAUSKAITE offered assistance to all regional and observing participants related to safety and interoperability issues.
10. All regional partners presented their legislative activities as well as their respective project related developments.
 - Albania will complete the establishing of the National Safety Authority and National Investigation Body in the first half of 2023.
 - Construction works on the ongoing project Tirana – Durres are in accordance with the plan. The deadline for completion is April 2024.
 - North Macedonia will adopt a new Railway Law in the first half of 2023, while the Railway Safety and Interoperability Law will enter the government procedure in a few weeks.

* 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.

- Construction works on the eastern part of Corridor VIII are in accordance with the set timetable.
- Montenegro sent three applications to the WBIF regarding the upgrading of infrastructure conditions at the Bijelo Polje – Bar section.
- Construction works in Bijelo Polje station will be completed by mid-May.
- Kosovo has delays in completion of the railway line Hani Elezit – Fushë Kosovë for civil works. Regarding this Infracos is in the process of renegotiation with the contractor for the better of the Project, for an extension (not yet decided) in order to complete this project. Publication of the tender for signaling and telecommunication (Phase 1 + Phase 2), the loan from EIB is signed while the same loan agreement need to be signed between Government and EBRD, in order to complete the amount need it for this project. In next days Infracos will require from the banks permission to start with the tender procedures. From the time of project starts, the project will finish within 30 months.

The phase 2 (Fushë Kosovë – Mitrovicë) for civil works, officially started on October 10, 2022, based in the contract this project will complete on January 8, 2024 (15 months duration)

The Project Design for the phase 3 (Mitrovicë – Leshak – border with Serbia) was planned to end in April 2023, the project has now reached the initial report.

The tender for the Feasibility Study, Preliminary Design and Tender Document for the railway line Fushë Kosovë - Prishtinë is opened.

- Safety and Operability Law is in its conceptual phase and will be adopted by the end of the year.
- Kosovo raised an issue regarding slow implementation of the Border Crossing Agreement with North Macedonia. All authorities (border police, rail, customs and inspection) should accelerate their procedures to complete the necessary protocols.
- Serbia prepared a Railway Safety Law which will, after public discussion, enter the government procedure for adoption. The Law on Interoperability has been sent to gather the opinions from other relevant ministries and institutions.
- In December 2022, Serbia signed a Financial Agreement with the EIB and Loan Agreement and Project Agreement with the EBRD for the complete railway line Belgrade - Niš. Also, in December 2022, WBIF investment grant was approved for Paraćin – Međurovo section on Belgrade – Niš railway line. At the same time, Serbia has sent two more grant application forms to the WBIF investment grant in February 2023, for sections Belgrade – Velika Plana and Velika Plana – Paraćin on Belgrade – Niš railway line.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina informed about the restructuring of the public company “Zeljeznice Rep Srpske”. The activities are going in accordance with the plan. A new structure should be operational by the end of 2023.

11. Georgia and Moldova informed the other participants about the state of play in their countries. They covered the policy and the project part. Their presentations will be delivered to all participants.

12. All participants welcomed the presentations given by a CONNECTA expert- Mr Zafeiris related to the preparation of the ITS Strategy in four RPs.

13. All participants welcomed the presentations given by Ms Tatjana Mirkovic on behalf of MC Consultants. They are preparing a Report on Railway Market Monitoring for the Western Balkans as well as on extending railway freight corridors to the Western Balkan. All regional partners agreed to send previous relevant studies to the MC Consultants, that could be useful for their current work. The consultants will present the next Progress Report in the upcoming TC on Railway meeting in June.



14. ERA informed all participants about the updated plan with relation to the certain number of trainings predicted for 2023. All their activities will directly support the implementation of activities from the Rail Action Plan.
15. Statistics on the transport volume was presented by the TCT. A short report will be delivered to all participants.
16. The TCT Secretariat informed the participants on the level crossing campaign which was completed by February 2023 in all the regional participants. As a continuation of the previous activity on improving the safety on level crossings, all regional partners agreed that the Transport Community may continue with producing general technical specification for level crossings equipment. It will be part of the tender documentation for the procurement phase.
17. The TCT Secretariat informed on the progress in re-establishing passenger connections in the region. A meeting with the representatives of Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia was held in Zagreb on 25 January. The next steps include the cost estimation for the train between Ljubljana Zagreb Belgrade as a pilot project. In the next phase, this pilot could be extended to all other destinations in the region (Sarajevo, Pristina, Podgorica, Skopje, Tirana).

Done in Pristina, on 22 February 2023.

