



## **1<sup>st</sup> Informal meeting of the Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods**

### **- Tentative plan for capacity building**

#### **Online Session –MS TEAMS**

**10<sup>th</sup> March 2023 10:00-12:30**

#### **Minutes and Conclusions**

1. The Informal meeting of Technical Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods (TCTDG) was opened by Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Desk Officer for Transport of Dangerous Goods Dr Monica Stanciu, who thanked present delegations for participation despite the short invitation notice. It was explained that the aim of the meeting is to help in drafting Tentative rolling plan for capacity building on TDG 2023-2025.
2. The Albanian presidency of the Committee welcomed the organization of the meeting and reiterated the importance of enhanced cooperation in this field. Not only the Chair, but also the other members of the Albanian delegation offered to further cooperate with Regional Partners, Observing Participants and EU Member States.
3. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Elezi, the Albanian Railways S.A. (HSH).
4. The agenda of the meeting was adopted as presented.
5. The first draft of the document was previously shared with all Regional Partners and Observing Participants.
6. The comments received from the Albanian delegation were welcomed and inserted in the Draft document. All delegations were encouraged to deliver their comments to the presented document.
7. The representatives of the EU Member States and international organizations with an observatory status were invited to support/propose projects to which they could contribute.
8. The TCTDG noted the absence of delegations of the following Regional Partners: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia, and of the Observing Partner Ukraine.
9. TCT Secretariat reiterated that, depending on the budget, some of the presented activities for 2023 might be postponed for 2024 or 2025.
10. Nevertheless, the tentative plan for capacity building will be published on the website as guidance for future works related to TDG as it should reflect the needs of the administrations concerned.
11. TCT Secretariat presented proposed a plan of multilateral Meetings in 2023, 2024 and 2025.
12. As per request of the Chair of the Meeting expected results were added for each section of the planned activities, divided into 4 key performance indicators: legislative changes, institutional development, training and capacity building and transport policies.
13. In 2023, the capacity building on RID/SMGS Annex II with more focus on rail is envisaged. The request from Georgia was supported by the Republic of Moldova, as both Observing Participants are faced with a choice between two legal systems.
14. Continuation on TAIEX for firefighters in Montenegro and start of such project for Albania, which is under approval in DG NEAR will take place in the course of 2023. Montenegro was invited to present follow-up on the 1st phase of the project at the next TDG meeting (June).
15. The General Director of Fire Protection and Rescue Service of the Ministry of Interior in Albania, Ms H. Komino briefly intervened in the meeting in order to express gratitude to TCT for the cooperation developed view to the Albanian TAIEX 33064 application. She offered full availability of her services and the Ministry in order to develop the activities of emergency responders.
16. Several aspects were highlighted further in the intervention of Mr. E. Mustafai from DGFP, such as the need of further development of cooperation around the 112 services and needs of equipment for

investigation of post-crash road accidents. Albania is the first country in the WB 6 that implemented 112 on a part of its territory, but further development of infrastructure and capacity building for the existing human resources is needed.

17. TCT PS agreed that this issue be raised as priority and thanked the Albanian delegation for raising up the issue. The documents drafted by the Albania delegation prior to the meeting will be shared with the other participants and posted on the website.
18. Moreover, a workshop on enforcement of TDG rules (Directive EU 2022/1999) proposed by Albania. The event is already foreseen in TCT Secretariat's budget for 2023.
19. In the second half of the year, discussions are ongoing concerning a Technical Committee meeting to be organized in cooperation with ERA concerning the training on Dangerous Goods Safety Advisors (DGSA) and their roles in Safety Management Systems.
20. A TAIEX application for introductory workshop on the IMDG Code was drafted by Albanian Centre of Excellence for Maritime Affairs (CEMA). Moreover, TAIEX on Directive 2010/35/EU on transportable pressure equipment is planned for 2023 by the Albanian State Inspectorate for Science and Technology (ISHTI). TCT PS to connect the Albanian team further with CEFTA, as there are ongoing works on accreditation and standardization therein.
21. In 2024, continuation of the activities related to implementation of Directive 2022/1999/EU will follow. Moreover, TCT proposed that Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the TCTDG chair in 2024.
22. The Committee agreed that – in order to support enforcement – recurrent workshops should be programmed, similar to those already organized with Poland and Romania.
23. Concerning implementation of Directive 2010/35/EU, TCT should initiate discussions with EA on accreditation and procedures for accreditation.
24. In 2025, tentative topics for potential workshop are the following: Waste Regulation & coherence with TDG, Recycled material use in TDG, Batteries and their regime in EU / RID/ADR/ADN, Conference with driving schools & DGSA training centers in the region and an Enforcement event on Directive 2022/1999/EU.
25. As regards the planned studies, in 2024 study on Enforcement of Road Transport Rules is envisaged. It was concluded that a set of informal meetings be held during 2023 in order to prepare the workshop to be held in Albania.
26. The Albanian delegation expressed interest in enhanced cooperation between inspection officers – State Inspectorates or Police departments in the Region and with the EU.
27. TCT explained that specialization of informal meetings per topic should be envisaged for the future as to ensure that appropriate branches of administration work together.
28. Albania also proposed that inspection bodies in charge of Directive 2010/35/EU on transportable pressure equipment work together.
29. TCT asked for time to check the rules of procedure in order to see how to proceed with organization of different aspects of the work. It was highlighted that involvement of the Chairs of the specialized working groups will need to be more significant, as the resources of the Secretariat are limited.
30. For example, one of the main tasks of the chair of an informal working group will be to report on its activities to the plenary TDG Committee meeting.
31. As a follow-up of the activities on RID/SMGS Annex II started in 2022/2023, and technical assistance to be tentatively planned for 2025.
32. Serbian delegation proposed to include Via Donau cooperation in the activities for 2024/2025. Cooperation with German and Austrian colleagues would be welcomed in the region, as well as more active participation of the Danube/Sava countries.
33. Albanian delegation proposed to develop a communication campaign in 2024 on compliance with ADR. Taking into account the periodicity of technical inspections, a compliance campaign should be launched in cooperation between the inspection bodies and the enforcement authorities in RPs and OPs. A raising awareness campaign would be useful in making transport company owners and drivers more



cooperative with authorities. This could be an useful step in development of the Roadmap on Enforcement.

34. The detailed Draft Tentative rolling plan for capacity building on TDG 2023-2025 with the comments from the meeting is attached.
35. The 2<sup>nd</sup> informal meeting is foreseen for 28 March 2023 to offer more insight to the Observing Participants on how TAIEX works. All members of the TDG Committee are kindly invited to spread the invitation to invite to the meeting with DG NEAR officials in other areas of their administrations that will need further insight on the way this program of capacity building functions.
36. The invitation will be shared with other Technical Committees as well.
37. The next plenary TCTDG meeting is envisaged to take place in June, date and time tbc.