

## ***High-Level Meeting for re-establishing the connections between major cities in South East Europe***

### **CONCLUSIONS**

- I. Participants confirmed willingness and readiness to realise this Project, considering different technical and financial challenges that must be addressed.
- II. Representatives of the three passenger railway undertakings expressed a joint standpoint regarding the market demand for this train. They identified interest, especially from tourists as well as the general public. Two options should be explored further: day trains and/or night sleeper trains.
- III. Transport Community Permanent Secretariat (TCPS) will explore possibilities for this Project to be supported by EU cross-border programmes. TCPS will inform all participants regarding the options by 1 March 2023.
- IV. All Passenger Railway Undertakings (Srbija Voz, HZPP and SZ Potniski Promet) will make cost estimations for the train and inform TCPS by 10 February 2023. TCPS will use this cost estimation to explore support for this Project from other potential sources.
- V. Since international trains in Croatia and Serbia are not part of the current Public Service Obligation contracts, there is a space for enhancing these contracts. In coming meetings with relevant authorities, TCPS will initiate debate on possible modification of these rules to establish possibilities for inclusion of the international trains under the scope of the PSO contract.
- VI. All participants acknowledged the detailed information regarding the future of civil works on the railway infrastructure on the railway lines between Ljubljana and Belgrade.
- VII. Considering that Ministries responsible for transport in Serbia and Croatia initiated Border Crossing Agreement on Railway procedure in the joint border station, all participants agreed that implementing the new Border Crossing Agreement is an efficient tool for extensive cutting waiting time at the border.
- VIII. The Croatian Chamber of Commerce informed all participants about possible new security procedures regarding border crossing in the coming time related to the recent EU Schengen Procedures. This could result in additional waiting time at the border. Because of that, in the later phase of this Project, the representatives of the border police and/or customs shall be invited.
- IX. The representative of HZPP informed us they had reserved a train path for the train Zagreb – Belgrade in the current international timetable. In present circumstances, representatives of Srbija Voz will assess possibilities to mobilise rolling stock for re-establishing the train between Belgrade and Sid as a part of the path between Zagreb and Belgrade.
- X. All participants agreed that TCPS should send these Conclusions to the relevant Ministries and inform them about the outcome of this meeting.
- XI. Participants agreed that the next meeting would be held in March 2023.

Zagreb, 25 January 2023