



The 4th Transport Community **Social Forum** took place in Pristina on 8 March. The Social Forum focused on the role of civil society organisations in creating sustainable, smart and inclusive mobility in the Western Balkans. Participants discussed the Action Plan for the implementation of the EU Acquis in the area of social issues and passenger rights, inclusive and accessible mobility for all, and the role of civil society in shaping the Green Agenda in the Western Balkans.

The Social Forum consisted of three parts: **the plenary session** focused on the Action Plan for the implementation of the EU Acquis in the area of social issues and passenger rights followed by a panel focused on Inclusive Mobility – how to make mobility accessible for everyone, and **panel** focused on Sustainable Mobility – the role of the civil society and the Green Agenda in the Western Balkans. To contribute to accessible and inclusive transport in the Western Balkans, Transport Community published the [Passenger Rights Report](#) covering topics such as - making transport systems inclusive, identifying obstacles and taking measures to improve accessibility, as well as awareness raising about these issues.



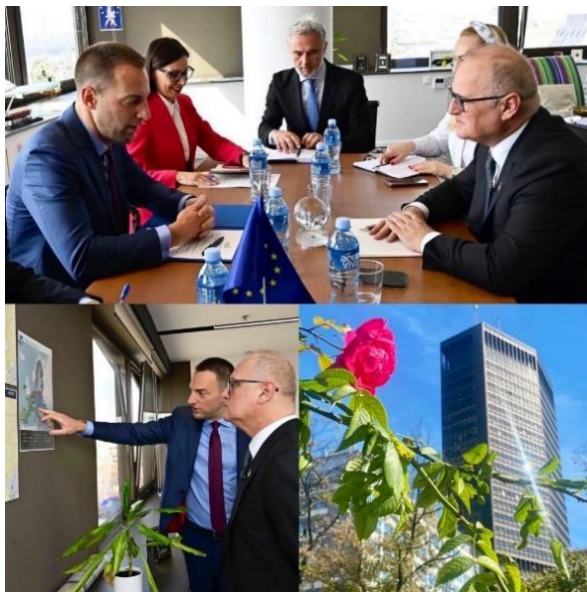
The **19th Regional Steering Committee (RSC)** meeting of the Transport Community was held on 28 March in Belgrade and online. The Permanent Secretariat delivered an update on completed studies and technical assistance in 2022, reported on the work conducted in the course of 2022 and shared details of preparations for this year's flagship event, Connectivity Summit, which will take place in Montenegro on 15-16 May. The committee endorsed the [Action Plan on implementation of the social Acquis in the Western Balkans](#).

In March 2023, the Secretariat organised four technical committees. The **10th meeting of the technical committee on transport of dangerous goods** and the first one in 2023 was held on 2 March 2023. The meeting was a good opportunity to reflect on the progress achieved in the previous period and to discuss the challenges ahead. Delegations from observing participants from Georgia and Moldova joined the meeting to discuss this important file with their counterparts from the Western Balkans. **Transport facilitation technical committee** was held on 14 March 2023 in Mostar and online. Participants discussed the Connectivity Summit and other related events of the Year of Connectivity, joint road and rail border crossings and the financial support for sustainable and smart transport. Representatives of Georgia and Moldova attended the meeting in person. **Waterborne and multimodal transport technical committee** took place on 16 March 2023 in Belgrade to discuss the EU Acquis transposition, making the region's ports green and sustainable and the use of IT to make transport more efficient. The meetings was an opportunity to welcome to the committee for the first time representatives of Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. **Road safety technical committee** met in Kotor on 23 March 2023. Participants were briefed on the European Commission's road safety package and on the road safety issues in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The **3rd Rail Infrastructure Managers Network for Western Balkans** met for the third time in Tirana on 23 March 2023. Participants discussed the project to improve safety of level crossings

and the plans to establish a regional Rail Centre of Excellence. Representatives of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine became observers to the network.

On 22 March 2023, Director Zakonjšek took part in the **International Road Conference “Ceste”** to speak about the Transport Community’s work in the area of road maintenance, highlighting that the sustainability of current and future investments is directly linked with the preventive maintenance of the road network to cope with the increased demand for transporting goods and people. Looking ahead, focus should be put on multi-year maintenance contracts, road asset management, regular data collection and financial planning.

Conference organised by Macedonian Customs Authority on 9 March 2023 in Skopje, offered an opportunity to share perspectives on the essential role of customs authorities in transport facilitation. Green Lanes simplified the crossing of borders and the future Western Balkans transport corridor will be a pathway for better connectivity with the EU.



During the 24 March 2023 visit to Brussels, **Transport Community delegation met with the DG NEAR Director General Gert Jan Koopman** to discuss the importance of transport acquis transposition and connectivity projects that are bringing tangible benefits to citizens of the Western Balkans. With the **Ambassador Zulfi Ismaili**, the delegation discussed progress of North Macedonia on its EU accession path. It was agreed that the newly proposed Western Balkans European transport corridor with rail Corridor VIII (connecting Italy, Albania, North Macedonia and Bulgaria) is a game changer for the entire region.

On 20 March 2023, the Secretariat **hosted the delegation of Serbia’s Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure led by Minister Goran Vesić** at the renovated “Beogradjanka” premises to discuss the upcoming legislative reforms, the EU-supported transport infrastructure projects in Serbia and the Connectivity Summit in Montenegro. **Minister of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina Edin Forto visited** the Secretariat on 30 March for productive talks on policy reform and TEN-T revision process. **Regional Cooperation Council Secretary General Majlinda Bregu visited the premises** on 29 March 2023 for talks on the Green Agenda for Western Balkans, making the region’s transport sustainable and the necessary political support for e-freight transport information exchange in the region.