1st meeting of the Road Executives Network

23 May 2023, 10.00 – 13.30, TCT Premises, Belgrade

Agreed Conclusions

1. The Road Directors gathered on May 23 in Belgrade at TCT's Headquarters to follow up on the commitment made in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Tirana during the previous year's Road Summit. Representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Albania, Montenegro, Georgia and Moldova brought valuable insights into road infrastructure development and the challenges in developing their network. The meeting was also attended by Steve Phillips, Secretary-General Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR).

2. Matej Zakonjšek, TCT Secretariat Director, delivered the opening remarks and set the tone for productive discussions during the meeting.

3. The Draft Agenda was adopted, and all members of the network agreed to follow the proposed schedule.

4. The Road Directors adopted the Rules of Procedure of the Road Executives Network (REN). This document provides a clear framework for future operations, ensuring consistency and paving the way for effective collaboration among the members. The Rules of Procedure enter into force on 23 May 2023.

5. As per Article 5 of the Rules of Procedure, the Presidency and Vice Presidency were elected alphabetically. Albania will hold the Presidency for one calendar year. The Vice Presidency will be Bosnia and Herzegovina. Given that Bosnia and Herzegovina have more than one member in the network, as per Art 5, point 6, a request for the nomination of the Vice President will be sent to the Regional Steering Committee representative.

6. Regarding data protection and privacy, related to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the REN members confirmed that they agree to share the contacts through the circulating emails that the Permanent Secretariat uses to inform them and distribute the documents.

7. Steve Phillips, General Secretary of the Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR), provided valuable insights into CEDR activities and potential areas of cooperation. The participants recognised the importance of collaboration with CEDR and agreed to explore opportunities for joint initiatives.

8. During the session on the state of play and challenges for the development of the TEN-T Road Network in the Western Balkans, Road Directors delivered a short presentation highlighting their progress, challenges, and priorities. This session facilitated a fruitful exchange of experiences. It was emphasised that road infrastructure development requires expertise in various areas, such as road maintenance, contract management, and the deployment of intelligent transportation systems (ITS) and road safety.

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* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Advisory opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

9. For the revision of the TEN-T network, members requested Transport Community Secretariat to facilitate communication with neighbouring EU MS aiming to align the future revisions.
10. The introductory session for Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova included presentations by the Road Directors from Observing Participants, who provided an overview of the road infrastructure development and the challenges faced. The absence of Ukrainian delegation was noted.
11. As per Article 4 of the Rules of Procedure, Observer status to the Road Executive Network was granted to the Chairman of the Road Department of Georgia, the Director of State Administration of Roads of the Republic of Moldova and to the Director of the State Road Agency of Ukraine.
12. Transport Community Secretariat provided an overview of the Technical Assistance and Capacity Building program initiatives related to road and road safety. The focus of the TCT support has been on:
    - Deployment of ITS (CONNECTA)
    - Strategic plan for deployment of e-charging stations along TEN-T network (CONNECTA)
    - Electronic tolling interoperability (TCT Secretariat)
    - Improvement of climate resilience (TCT Secretariat)
    - Capacity building on Traffic Control centers planning and design, road maintenance, claim management etc.
    - Online platforms: Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory (WBRSO) and TODIS
    - Safe and sustainable programme
    - Capacity building in key stages of project cycle such as project preparation (with JASPERS support) or contract an claims management

13. The participants recognised the importance of capacity building initiatives and expressed their commitment to actively participate in and benefit from these programs.
14. The Transport Community Permanent Secretariat will ensure the coordination and proper functioning of the Road Executives Network.