



**13th Technical Committee on Road Safety
&
5th Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory**

23- 24 March 2023

Hotel "Vardar", Kotor, Montenegro

Agreed Conclusions

1. The 13th Technical Committee on Road Safety took place in a hybrid format, virtually and in Hotel Vardar, Kotor, Montenegro on Thursday, 23 March 2023.
2. The agenda of the 13th Technical Committee meeting was adopted with excluded point *Road Safety in Ukraine – State of Play*, due to the absence of the Observing Participant Ukraine, which was noted.
3. Participants welcomed the speech of Albert Kolgeci, Head of EU acquis division of Transport Community. He announced that three Observing Participants – Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia joined the Transport Community and welcomed the participation and presence of Georgian representatives at the 13th Technical Committee on Road Safety and the 5th WBRSO meeting. He reiterated that although the figures show overall progress, road safety data per each regional partner show quite an increase for half of the region and a decrease for the other half. The main achievements of 2022 in road safety were reflected in the Second Progress Report on Action Plans and EU Acquis. In particular, the establishment of the Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory Information System will help in monitoring the progress and finding the gaps that exist in the region. Regarding the highlights for 2023, some priorities were reiterated, such as the progress of the Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme, measuring KPIs which will focus on seat belts and further approximation of the legislation.
4. As per the Rules of Procedure, chairmanship was handed over from Montenegro, Ms Sanja Čarapić, Ministry of Capital Investments to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Miroslav Đerić, Ministry of Communications and Transport. The Chair welcomed all the Regional Partners and Observing Participants and wished them a fruitful meeting.
5. Mr Andreas Nägele, Policy Officer from DG MOVE, European Commission presented the Road Safety package adopted by the European Commission on 1 March 2023. Three legislative proposals were adopted by the EU on 1 March: Directive on driving licences, Directive on the Union wide-effect of certain driving disqualifications and Amendment to Directive facilitating cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences. The documents will enable the cross-border

exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences, more effective use of vehicle registration data to improve the accuracy of existing information exchange, mutual assistance in cross-border investigation procedures etc. When it comes to driving licences, changes related to novice drivers, requirements for vehicles, physical and mental drivers checks and EU-wide digital driving licences were presented in detail. With regard to driving disqualifications, amendments related to the scope of the application, procedural aspects, handling of information and specific requirements (costs, time limits, statistics) were introduced.

6. The participants welcomed a presentation on the state of play of Road Safety in Georgia given by Mr Erekle Kezherashvili, Deputy Head of the Transport and Logistics Development Policy Department from the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. The main objectives of the New National Road Safety Strategy 2022-2025 were presented, as well as the main competent authorities and road safety statistics (number of road crashes, serious injuries and fatalities) from 2016-2022. The ongoing Twinning project “Support in Establishment of Comprehensive Road Safety Database and Further Improvement of Road Safety Management in Georgia” was introduced. The project will enable Georgia to become an analytical centre for road safety of regional importance within the Eastern Partnership Road Safety Regional Observatory.
7. Participants welcomed the presentation of Mr Radu Rogovei, Head of Department of Transport Infrastructure, Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development Republic of Moldova where it shows that the targets of the previous Decade of Action were achieved by 46% reduction of the number of fatalities. There is in progress the new mobility Transport Strategy for 2023-2030 and its Action Plan. In addition, the Reorganisation of the State Road Administration, Road Fund and road maintenance system is planned.
8. Ms Sanja Čarapić from the Ministry of Capital Investments debriefed participants on the Road Safety progress in Montenegro. Road Traffic Safety Strategy 2023-2030 is expected to be completed by the end of the 2nd Quarter of 2023. Actions to promote safer infrastructure and protection of road users were presented, as well as the latest legislative alignments with the EU acquis.
9. Ms Anna Krukowska, Team Leader of B&S Europe presented activities for strengthening road safety management within the IPA project „Technical Assistance for Capacity Support to the Transport Sector and EU Acquis Alignment in Montenegro”. The project strives for National legislation aligned with EU Acquis and capacity building through a sector approach. Some ongoing and planned work as well as current deliverables in 2023 were briefly presented. The project will further aim for legislation gap assessment, work on black spot identification, and drafting the Road Safety Strategy 2023-2030.

10. Progress on the measures Road Safety Action plan and EU Acquis was presented by Liljana Çela, Transport Community Secretariat and Technical Committee members reported the latest changes on the progress made during the Reporting Period October 2022 – March 2023
- a. **Albania** reported a decrease in the number of fatalities in 2022 compared to 2021. As for investments, there were improvements in road signs and installed lightning on certain road sections, and interventions for the elimination of 5 black spots were completed. Regarding awareness raising, 50 educational events were held in 10 cities where around 2000 children participated. Within IPA 3, ToR for Road Safety strategy was developed by the consultant. Two proposals for investments within the Safe and Sustainable Transport Programme were submitted to TCT Secretariat.
 - b. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** reported certain progress within cooperation (MoU) with UNDP. In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EBRD pilot project regarding road safety in tunnels will start in June. Social media awareness campaigns financed by mobile operators will start in April.
 - c. **Kosovo*** reported that the draft Draft Law on Roads is in the drafting phase and the establishment of the Road Safety Agency is part of it. Kosovo is looking for the opportunity to increase its knowledge regarding the police road crash database and has submitted the application to TAIEX for having an expert mission. Road Safety Action Plan is in the drafting process and is foreseen to be finalised in June 2023. In cooperation with GIZ, an App for school kids about road safety traffic signs was developed. Kosovo is planning to increase the budget for road infrastructure.
 - d. **Montenegro** will finalise Road Traffic Safety Strategy 2023-2030 in June 2023.
 - e. **North Macedonia** reported that the Report on Traffic accident data is in the last stage of preparation. The establishment of the Road Safety Agency is postponed.
 - f. **Serbia** reported that a new coordination body was established and held its first meeting. Within it, 9 working groups were formed. Outcomes of the study visit of the Ministry of Interior in Austria in October 2022 within the TAIEX project were presented. Training on the quality of data collection for new traffic police officers took place. Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan should be approved by the newly established coordination body. The results of Key Performance Indicators for 2022 are available on the website of the Road Safety Traffic Agency (not methodology). The first training to refresh knowledge for licenced auditors and inspectors took place (3 trainings are needed for extension of the licence).

* 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.

11. All regional partners were invited to submit in writing the latest updates to TCT Secretariat. The received inputs will be reflected in the next Action Plan Progress Report which will be submitted to the Regional Steering Committee in September 2023.
12. The Observing Participants were invited to share the information in writing regarding the state of play of measures in the Road Safety Action Plan as soon as possible. Based on the received inputs, TCT Secretariat will present a report to the European Commission regarding the state of play in each of the Observing Participants. The report will be presented at the next Regional Steering Committee meeting for adoption.
13. Regional Partners and Observing Participants were invited to present up to three priority needs for technical assistance or capacity building related to road safety. Technical Assistance in Collecting Key Performance Indicators for Western Balkans' Regional Partners on the use of seat belts is envisaged in the 2023 TCT budget. Following the WBIF meeting which is planned to take place in June, the Safe and Sustainable program is expected to become operational by the end of the year. Regional Partners were informed that priority will be given to the mature projects because this is an Investment Programme. Separate meetings on this topic between World Bank and each Regional Partner will follow.
14. The 5th WBRISO meeting agenda called on the collection of Key Performance Indicators and their use for monitoring and reaching road safety targets.
15. Participants welcomed the presentation of Ms Julia Funk, Senior Programme Manager & Head of Statistics in IRF World Road Statistics. The dataset is quite rich and helpful for the transport sector in the region and future cooperation would be of interest.
16. Mr Miroslav Petrović and Ms Sara Radosavljević, Devellop presented the live dashboard of the Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory Information System. Participants welcomed it and are invited to send comments that will improve the system and their daily work.
17. Data Collection Process for the 2022 year has started and Regional coordinators are invited to create the new questionnaire for 2022 in the system. That will enable the users from Traffic Police and Health sector to enter their data. The deadline for completing the questionnaire for the 2022 year is 1 May 2023.
18. Participants welcomed the presentation of Mr Peter Whitten about the next steps in the Europe Road Safety Observatory (ERSO). A new project framework contract with a duration of 36 months will start in April 2023 with the main objective to support the ERSO with enhanced, updated and integrated road safety data and knowledge, following an integrated and holistic road safety approach. ERSO contents will be enhanced by new key outputs, namely the Road Safety Performance Indicators and the



Monitoring of National Road Safety Strategies. ERSO's next output will address the Safe System Approach principles, as well as the key areas of the EU Road Safety Policy Framework 2021-2030.

19. Participants welcomed the presentation of Ms Milica Dragišić, Expert Associate, Road Traffic Safety Agency of Serbia which gave highlights on how to make use of the results collected on Key Performance Indicators.
20. The next meeting of the Technical Committee on Road Safety and WBRSO will take place back to back with the International Road Federation Road Safety conference which will be held on 15-16 May 2023 in Belgrade, hotel Crowne Plaza.