



On 4 April 2023 in Skopje, the Secretariat organised the **11th Road technical committee**. The meeting was a good opportunity to take stock of 2022 accomplishments, discuss progress on implementation of Transport Community Road Action Plan, regional partners' ITS strategies and to welcome to the committee the observers from Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Transport Community delegation took part in celebrations of the **150th anniversary of the railways of North**



Macedonia in Skopje on 7 April 2023. The ceremony served as a reminder that railways of North Macedonia connected nations and people and spurred economic growth and prosperity since 1873, when the first railway connected Skopje with the port of Thessaloniki. A century and a half later, Transport Community is assisting North Macedonia to remain on the same track – improving connectivity. With EU support and rail corridor VIII, North Macedonia will become a connector between Adriatic and Black Seas.



On 13 April 2023, **Director Zakonjšek met with the Minister of European Integration Ms Tanja Miščević**, to review progress in EU accession negotiations with Serbia. The interlocutors discussed developments on chapters 14 and 21 - Transport policy and Trans-European networks, highlighting that progress on connectivity projects needs to go hand in hand with policy reforms.

On 18 April, the Transport Community delegation **took part in the 8th Meeting on the Common Regional Market (CRM) and the Green Agenda for Western Balkans in Brussels**. During the session on CRM, priority actions for 2023 and potential deliverables for the Berlin Process Summit were discussed with PM Sherpas. Traditional **informal breakfast of ambassadors from the Western Balkans** was hosted on 19 April 2023 by Ambassador Suela Janina from the Albanian mission to the EU. Representatives of DG NEAR and DG MOVE joined the meeting to discuss EU prospects of the region.

The **Budget Committee** met on 19 April 2023 to reflect on the operational achievements in 2022, review the Annual Operational report 2022, discuss the financial performance of the Secretariat and to agree on the operational and budgetary matters, which will further streamline the work of the Transport Community.

The **10th anniversary of Serbia's Port Governance Agency** was marked on 21 April 2023. The Agency was established with a goal to provide governance and management services for ports and inland waterways in Serbia, and in those ten years, it has more than lived up to its mission. The event marked a decade of work of building a sustainable and environmentally friendly inland waterways transport system in the Western Balkans. Transport Community will continue

working with the agency on development of Serbia's port terminals, promoting waterway traffic and investing in port infrastructure.

In April 2023, two joint **activities with the European Railway Agency** took place. One in Luxembourg, where, with the support of the Luxembourg Railways, a training on ERTMS for rail professionals occurred, and the second one in Belgrade, where a European Vehicle Register training allowed colleagues from Serbia and Montenegro to master EVR. In Luxembourg, around 20 rail professionals gathered to deepen their understanding of ERTMS and to exchange best practices with peers from other countries. Luxembourg is a perfect example for the experts from West Balkans, Georgia and Turkey as Luxembourg Railways CFL has already rolled out 100% ERTMS on its national rail network. In Belgrade, colleagues from Serbia and Montenegro learned about the web-based management of the allocation of trains, recording vehicle registration and their updates.

On 21 April 2023, Transport Community continued its **fruitful cooperation with observing member Moldova**. Meeting with the State Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Rural Development Mr Ghenadie Marian was a chance to discuss the alignment of transport laws with EU standards and connectivity infrastructure projects that will bring Moldova closer to the EU.

The **meeting with Steve Philips, Secretary-General of Conference of European Road Directors**, on 24 April 2023 offered an opportunity to share the best practices on climate resilience, asset management, road safety and fostering neighbourly relations between road directors from Western Balkans and EU Member States.



The Transport Community delegation took part in the **10th International Conference on Railway Operations Modelling and Analysis (ICROMA)** on 26 April 2023 in Belgrade. Director Zakonjšek's keynote address focused TCT's work on building sustainable rail systems in the Western Balkans. The Secretariat also supported participation of 15 experts from regional partners and one from observing participant Georgia.

Deputy Prime Minister Ervin Ibrahimovic and Director Zakonjšek met in Podgorica on 27 April to discuss preparations for the Connectivity Summit which will be organised on 15-16 May.

On 28 April, Transport Community organised a **meeting for experts from Serbia's Ministry for European Integration** to share their experiences on the EU accession negotiations screening for chapters 14 Transport Policy and 21 TEN-T policy with colleagues from Albania and North Macedonia.

On 23 April 2023, the Transport Community team joined the teams of EU Delegation, Cyprus, Greece and Slovenia, and successfully finished the relay race at **Belgrade Marathon**. Congratulations to all runners!

