



## **14<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee on Road Safety**

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## **6<sup>th</sup> Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory (WBRSO) meeting**

15-16 May 2023

*Hotel "Crowne Plaza", Baltic conference room, Belgrade*

### **Agreed Conclusions**

1. The 14<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee on Road Safety and 6<sup>th</sup> WBRSO meeting took place in a hybrid format, virtually and in Hotel Crowne Plaza, Belgrade on Monday, 15 May 2023. The meeting was held back-to-back with the Regional Road Safety Conference & Technology Showcase "Vision Zero for the Balkans" organized by IRF Global, Road Safety Traffic Agency of Serbia and Transport Community as part of the 7<sup>th</sup> UN Global Road Safety Week.
2. The agenda of the 14<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting was adopted without comments.
3. Participants welcomed the speech of Ljuba Siljanoska, TCT Secretariat's Deputy Director. She said that we are marking the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> UN Road Safety Week and reiterated the importance of giving a regional perspective to road safety issues. She also reiterated that the progress on the road safety actions and transposition of EU Acquis remain a priority. The third Progress Report on Action Plans will be published in October 2023 after which new measures and a new version of the Road Safety Action Plan for the region will follow. Besides, TCT Secretariat drafted Action Plans for the Observing Participants which should be adopted by the Regional Steering Committee in June 2023. Workshops with Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine will be completed by the end of May.
4. The Chair, Mr Miroslav Đerić, Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed all the Regional Partners and Observing Participants and wished a fruitful meeting and conference.
5. The participants welcomed presentation on the road safety progress and the latest developments on EU Acquis in Serbia given by Ms. Olivera Stevic-Ledencan, Head of Road Safety Group from the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure. Serbia has already implemented almost all measures from Regional Road Safety Action Plan. Adoption of the Road Safety Strategy for 2023-2030 is ongoing. Transposition and Implementation of Road Infrastructure Safety Management were presented as well as the main figures in road safety in the period 2017-2022. Moreover, ongoing projects and legislation pertaining to road safety were introduced, showing the level of compliance with the EU Acquis.

6. Peter Whitten, Policy Officer from DG MOVE, European Commission presented updates on European Road Safety Observatory, EU Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and CARE. Reports on serious injuries from the European Road Safety Observatory were shared with its members, as well as tools provided by the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine to the European Commission, with relation to data on the MAIS 3+ scale. A new Trendline project, also partly funded by the European Commission, will build on the work undertaken during Baseline. Work began in October 2022 and will run for three years. This project brings together 25 EU Member States (as well as two other Member States and two EFTA countries as observers) for data collection, data analysis, delivery of road safety KPIs and use of these within road safety policies. In addition to the eight KPIs used within Baseline, the consortium will also identify some new experimental indicators, develop appropriate methodologies and test these out on a limited scale.
7. 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 March 2023 – May 2023.
  - a. **Albania** reported no updates since March 2023. The road safety figures for the first 3 months of 2023 show 46 fatalities and 340 injured persons, which is the same number of victims as in 2022, whereas the number of accidents decreased by 7,7%. As regards the investments in horizontal signs and new technical equipment, 3 projects are in the tendering phase. Albania has built a Traffic monitoring centre, its coverage will gradually expand to the entire network of highways in Albania. Design for black spots is envisaged for this year. World Bank project for the construction of resistant bridges is in the final stage of approval – 100 bridges are identified as priorities for intervention, out of which 27 of most priority and the loan agreement signed by the World Bank and the Ministry of Finance will follow in August/September.
  - b. **Bosnia and Herzegovina** reported that the Draft of the Road Safety Strategy is still on hold, as well as the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and the UNDP. A project with Serbia in order to start an in-depth study analysis on a state level is planned. In cooperation with EBRD and the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a pilot training on Directive 2004/54/EC on minimum safety requirements for tunnels in the Trans- European Road network is prepared, which will comprise 9 modules and the final exam. The training is designed for 20 participants – representatives of Public Company “Motorways”, Public Company “Roads” and the ministries. Based on the outcomes of this pilot, EBRD is preparing a new e-learning course in this regard. The training will be 3 days and will take place on 7-9 June 2023. From April 2-30, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with mobile phone operators and the Ministries of the Interior, conducted a media campaign "Head up! Stop using mobile phones in traffic!".

- c. **Kosovo\*** reported that its TAIEX request has been approved, which will focus on reviewing the existing road safety database and legal gaps in developing new legislation. The Ministry launched campaigns related to speed limits, the use of seatbelts, and mobile phones, together with NGOs and Kosovo Police. Law on road and Law on transport are under the amendment. In 2024 law on driver's licences and traffic rules is expected to be amended.
  - d. **Montenegro** reported no changes since March 2023.
  - e. **North Macedonia** reported that the Ministry prepared a detailed design tender for ITS on Corridor X, the final beneficiary is Public Enterprise for State of Roads (PESR), and it is expected to be completed next year. The project on implementation of bridge management system in PESR includes a condition survey of 1480 bridges on state roads. The obtained data will determine the priorities for reconstruction. The establishment of a road safety agency is ongoing and the governmental decision in this regard is expected in the last quarter of 2023. Currently, there is ongoing technical assistance performed by SAFEGE for road safety audits for local roads (360km).
  - f. **Serbia** reported no changes since March 2023 apart from the ones previously presented.
  - g. From the Observing Participants, **Georgia** reported about its TAIEX on technical inspection of vehicles and the visit from colleagues from Lithuania the previous week concerning noise measurement methodology. As a follow-up of TAIEX on monitoring of technical inspection centres, Georgia drafted a legislative act to start monitoring.
8. 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 October.
  9. TCT Secretariat informed participants that the WBRSO<sup>1</sup> information system has been put in place and from 15 May 2023 is available on TCT Secretariat's website. Data for the 2022 year already submitted by the Regional Partners were shown and the rest of the Regional Partners were urged to complete the data submission by their Regional Coordinators.
  10. Regional Partners and Observing Participants were invited to present up to three priority needs for technical assistance or capacity building related to road safety.

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\* 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.

<sup>1</sup> <https://wbrso.transport-community.org/>

11. TCT Secretariat informed participants that Technical Assistance on collecting KPIs on the use of seat belts envisaged in 2023 from TCT Secretariat's budget has been launched, with estimated timing for the project start: end of July/ August.
12. The following requests for Technical Assistance and capacity building are sent to the TCT secretariat:
  - a. **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
    - set up in parallel a coordination mechanism between police and justice ensuring the full implementation and strict enforcement of road safety legislation (the same request was sent from Kosovo too);
    - Need to strengthen human capacities related to the promotion of the protection of road users;
    - Need for technical assistance to propose a specific programme for the protection of vulnerable road users (VRU) and motorcycles (two-wheelers);
  - b. **Kosovo**
    - support of the implementation of Directive (EU) 2015/413 on facilitating the cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences.
  - c. **Montenegro**
    - RSA and RSI training for increasing capacities on Tunnel Safety expertise
    - Implementing MAIS3+ scale
13. TCT secretariat will explore the possibilities for supporting the needs presented under point 12. Some of the initial ideas for support were the following:
  - a. That said, since 4 out of 6 regional partners (Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Montenegro) confirm the need for training on RSA& RSI on Tunnel Safety then the measure takes a regional scope. TCT Secretariat asked regional partners to volunteer for initiating the TAIEX application and afterwards, TCT Secretariat will send a request to DG NEAR for opening the application for all the region. The possibility to include the Observing Participants will be explored too.
  - b. TCT Secretariat suggested that the best practice of Serbia shall be followed for the request on the support of the implementation of Directive (EU) 2015/413 on facilitating the cross-border exchange of information on road safety-related traffic offences. The interested parties (in this case Ministry of Interior) shall initiate a site visit via the TAIEX application where 5 officials can profit from the exchange of the best practice. TAIEX does not support study visits that have a regional scope (please see TAIEX presentation at the 12<sup>th</sup> TC meeting, Brussels).
  - c. Implementing the MAIS3+ scale would benefit from IPA funding and the interested parties shall explore this opportunity with the respective IPA offices and EU Delegations.



- d. On awareness raising, TCT Secretariat suggested that regional partners shall strengthen their cooperation with FIA clubs who are having experience and are supportive of road safety awareness.
14. The next meeting of the Technical Committee on Road Safety will take place at the end of September/beginning of October 2023. TCT Secretariat is still discussing with Polish Authorities that the meeting to be held in Warsaw back-to-back with Road Technical Committee.