



# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGERS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

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THE FUTURE IS ON TRACKS

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2021  
WESTERN BALKANS RAIL SUMMIT  
BELGRADE

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGERS IN THE WESTERN BALKAN

Western Balkans Rail Summit, Belgrade 2021

*The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made between all railway infrastructure managers in South East European Parties (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia):*

***“Albanian Railways JSC” – “Hekurudha Shqiptare”,***

***“ALBRAIL SH.P.K” – “ALBRAIL SH.P.K”,***

***“Railways of Republic of Srpska” – “Željeznice Republike Srpske”,***

***“Railways of Federation of BiH” – “Željeznice Federacije BiH”,***

***“Kosovo Railways Infrastructure JSC” – “INFRAKOS” - Infrastruktura e Hekurudhave të Kosovës  
SHA – “INFRAKOS”***

***“Public Enterprise for Railway Infrastructure Railways of Republic of North Macedonia - Skopje”  
– “JP ZRSM Infrastruktura”,***

***“Railways Infrastructure of Montenegro” - “Željeznička infrastruktura Crne Gore” AD,***

***“Serbian Railway Infrastructure” JSC - “Infrastruktura Železnice Srbije” a.d,***

*(Hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”, or individually “the Party”).*

*\*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.*

## **PREAMBLE**

- *As agreed in the Joint declaration endorsed at the Ministerial Council meeting of the Transport Community held on 10 December 2018, the South East European Parties committed themselves to develop and implement a Regional Rail Strategy in the Western Balkans, in the framework of the Transport Community. The Joint declaration underlined the need for actions at regional level for the implementation of intelligent transport systems for rail and for the development and maintenance of the rail TEN-T network infrastructure.*
- *Taking in account regional Rail Action Plan for developing regional rail strategy, adopted by Transport Ministers in October 2020 at the Transport Community Ministerial Council.*
- *Taking in consideration European Commission Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans published in October 2020.*
- *Considering implementation of the connectivity reforms measures under the Connectivity Agenda agreed in Vienna in 2015.*
- *Considering the importance of improving competitiveness and harmonization of rail systems in South East Europe through elimination of technical barriers and fostering of rail interoperability.*
- *Noting the role of the European Network of Infrastructure Managers as foreseen in Article 7f of Directive 2012/34/EU establishing a single European railway area, as amended by Directive (EU) 2016/2370*
- *Bearing in mind that Protocol VI of Transport Community Treaty, as agreed by all South East European Parties, stipulates three phases of the rail market opening.*
- *Considering that all Parties wish to foster enhanced joint contacts to support their work, by allowing them to share information, and best practice, thus promoting skills and competencies, as applicable.*

**THE PARTIES HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:**

**Article 1.**

**Objectives**

*The main objective of this MoU is to establish a Network of Railway Infrastructure Managers (hereinafter referred to as the “IM Network”) for regular consultation, coordination and experience sharing of all railway related activities at the regional level.*

*The IM Network will cooperate to ensure better planning of railway network maintenance, to jointly develop regional Network Statement, to deploy European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS), to jointly monitoring conditions of rail infrastructure, to improve safety on level crossings and exchange of best practice.*

*Its goal is to contribute to the sustainable development of the rail infrastructure in the region, in a coordinated manner at regional level.*

*This MoU is establishing a regional forum on railway related issues to ensure a fully operational regional Network.*

**Article 2.**

**Mandate and scope of action of the IM Network**

*The IM Network shall cooperate closely with the Transport Community Technical Committee on Railways in respect of the objectives of the Transport Community. To this end, the IM Network will inform the Technical Committee on Railways about its activities and progress and will consider the recommendations of the Technical Committee on Railways.*

*The main priorities of the IM Network are to:*

- *develop regional rail infrastructure to TEN-T standards;*
- *support the timely and efficient implementation of the Rail Action Plan in cooperation with the Transport Community Technical Committee on Railway;*
- *monitor and benchmark railway performance both in terms of infrastructure and operation, including identification of common principles, practices, and timelines to better manage the infrastructure in WB6;*
- *contribute to the rail market opening activities;*
- *tackle cross border/boundary infrastructure bottlenecks on the entire rail network;*
- *eliminate stopping time at the border/common crossing points and;*
- *co-operate as applicable in relation to charging systems, allocation of infrastructure capacity on more than one network,*
- *exchange best practices on the above-mentioned topics.*

*The above-mentioned list of cooperation activities is non-exhaustive and may evolve in accordance with the needs of the sector.*

### **Article 3.**

#### **Membership**

*The IM Network shall be composed of Railway Infrastructure Managers from Western Balkans.*

*Infrastructure Managers from the European Union, the European Commission, relevant EU agencies and undertakings (e.g. ERA, Shift-2-Rail Joint Undertaking) and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. CER, EIM) can participate as observers.*

*The IM Network may decide to grant an observer status to other experts, organisations, or public entities, where relevant, for participation in its specific structures.*

### **Article 4.**

#### **Operation of the Network**

*The IM Network is chaired by a representative of Infrastructure Managers. Each Infrastructure Managers shall hold the Chairmanship of the Network for one calendar year.*

*At its first meeting, the Network shall adopt its rules of procedure.*

*The IM Network will meet at least twice a year and will report on its activities to the Technical Committee on Railways at least once a year.*

*The IM Network will establish a rolling calendar of activities, based on the relevant strategic and specific objectives.*

*The IM Network will be a body which will facilitate the IM's to plan and cooperate in synergy in all railway related activities under the remits of Infrastructure Managers.*

*The IM Network can be used as an umbrella organisation for planning, preparing, and implementing regional projects.*

*Each IM will consult the IM Network on the following activities:*

- *preparation of maintenance plans to avoid traffic disruption and further fragmentation of the rail market;*
- *preparation of their Network Statement;*
- *preparation of major rail infrastructure projects;*
- *ERTMS deployment plans to ensure interoperability;*
- *preparation of railway development strategies.*

**Article 5.**

*Transport Community Permanent Secretariat will facilitate the organisation of the meetings of the Network.*

**Article 6.**

***Effect and termination***

*This MoU should come into effect on the date it has been signed by all the Parties and should continue to have effect until termination by either of them.*

*Each Party may terminate this MoU by giving six months prior written notice to other Parties.*

*Signed at Belgrade on 13 September 2021 in eight original copies in English language and by the Participants:*

*On behalf of Mr. Dyrmishi:  
Bashkim Kosoruka*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ani Dyrmishi  
Albanian Railways JSC (HSH)

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