



11th Road Technical Committee meeting

4 April 2023, 10.00 – 16.30, Hotel Alexander II, Skopje

Agreed Conclusions

1. Members of the Road Technical Committee (RTC) welcomed the opening remarks by Ms Ljuba Siljanoska, TCT Secretariat Deputy Director. Ms Siljanoska welcomed the Macedonian chairmanship of the Road Technical Committee in the course of 2023, as well as the attendance of the three Observing Participants to the work of TCT: Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. She highlighted that the focus of the meeting will be tracking the progress made in the implementation of the Road Action Plan since October 2022, as well as EU Acquis. She reflected on the main 2022 highlights, such as Road Summit, Summer School in Sarajevo, Traffic Control Centre training as well as finalisation of 1st phase of e-tolling interoperability. Ms Siljanoska reiterated that TCT activities in 2023 will mainly focus on the Safe and Sustainable Program, the first annual meeting of directors of road authorities based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2022, a study visit on e-tolling interoperability, ITS regional conference and capacity building on road maintenance.
2. Presence of Georgian representatives Ms Salome Tsurtsunia, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure and Mr Nikoloz Gvenetadze, Land Transport Agency of Georgia was acknowledged, as well as the online participation of Mr Alexandru Gronic and Mr Radu Rogovei from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova. The absence of the Ukrainian delegation was noted.
3. Chair of the Technical Committee, Mr. Marjan Kopevski, welcomed the joining of three Observing Participants to the work of TCT Secretariat, especially the in-person attendance of the Georgian representatives, and wished a fruitful meeting.
4. Agenda of the meeting was adopted without comments.
5. Regional Partners briefly presented the status and progress made in the implementation of the priority measures included in the Road Action Plan.
 - **Albania.** Road Asset Management Project failed and the project will be launched again. Albanian Road Authority (ARA) added one more regional directorate to deal with road maintenance. Traffic Control Center is in the procurement phase, with state budget funding. After the completion of the vulnerability assessment of 100 bridges, interventions are planned in 27 priority bridges. ARA is tasked to check the installation of e-charging in the existing petrol station in compliance with the Albanian Road Code.
 - **Bosnia and Herzegovina.** State of play was submitted to TCT Secretariat on 31 March. As a part of the Road Modernization in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina project, financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), PC Roads FBH procured additional Pavement Data Collection Equipment for deflection measurements (FWD) and to assess skid resistance (LFC). PC Motorways FBH is currently engaged in the development of RAMS with consultants and it will be integrated into our GIS. Interoperability of electronic toll collection

- between PC Motorways in FBiH and RS is currently in progress, the expected date for start of interoperability is 01.06.2023. As a part of the Road Modernization in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina project, financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), PC Roads FBH completed a Climate risk assessment of the main road network in FBH.
- **Kosovo**^{*1}. The multimodal transport strategy was adopted in December 2022. Draft law on roads is currently being drafted and undergoing internal consultation. Kosovo highlighted the need for assistance to prepare RAMS ToR. Administrative Instruction for the transposition of ITS Directive is still pending and will be finalised once the law on roads is approved.
 - **North Macedonia**. The protocol on e-tolling interoperability is signed between the Public Enterprise of State Roads with the Public Enterprise of Roads of Serbia, expected start date of interoperability in the summer of 2023. ITS Strategy has been drafted in undergoing approvals.
 - **Montenegro**. Progress will be sent in writing.
 - **Serbia**. PERS Business Plan includes update of the database and programme analysis. RAMS Unit is included in 2023 Business Plan. Public procurement for Performance Based contracts has been prepared for 3 years. In February 2023, is set up a new working group for Service Level Agreement (SLA), the first meeting held on 7 April. SLA will be prepared for the period 2024-2026, and it is aimed to be piloted during 2023. The preparation of ITS Strategy is progressing. New Working group has been set up for the new Law on Roads. The protocol on e-tolling interoperability is signed between Public Enterprise of Roads of Serbia and Public Enterprise of State Roads of North Macedonia, expected start date of interoperability in the summer of 2023.
6. Insufficient progress with regard to maintenance-related measures was noted by the TCT Secretariat and all Regional Partners were urged to submit the information in writing on this matter. If needed, TCT Secretariat could facilitate improvement in this area by raising the topic on the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Road Authorities/Public Enterprises in the region, so that it is duly acknowledged on a higher level as well.
 7. Regional Partners updated RTC on their progress made regarding the implementation of road related legislation. Regional Partners were invited to submit to TCT Secretariat a written report on their progress made in the implementation of legislation as per revised Annex I.3. Regarding the legislation pertinent to admission to the occupation of road operation, there is an initiative of respective ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia on the improvement of regional cooperation in this aspect and digitalisation of the exchange of bilateral information about permits. TCT Secretariat will facilitate the discussion and will update accordingly Road Technical Committee.
 8. The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina asked for support for the setting up of a proper institutional framework that would support and coordinate the EU Acquis transposition process.
 9. RTC members welcomed the presentation on infrastructure projects and the current state of play given by Ms Salome Tsurtsumia, Deputy Chairperson of the Roads Department of Georgia, under the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure. Mr Nikoloz Gvenetadze, Deputy Director of Land Transport Agency presented its organisational structure, competencies, approximation with the

¹ * 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.

EU legislation as well as planned road side check reform. RTC members expressed interest to organise a study visit in Georgia during 2023.

10. RTC members welcomed the presentation of Mr Radu Rogovei, Head of Department of Transport Infrastructure, Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova which provided insights on the current status and future development of the road sector in Moldova.
11. TCT Secretariat thanked Observing Participants for submitting their inputs for drafting the Road Action Plan. TCT Secretariat will organise a separate meeting in Belgrade with each Observing Participant in order to further discuss the structure of future Action Plans in each transport mode. An invitation will follow in the next days. The final report on this matter will be presented at the RSC meeting in June for adoption.
12. RTC members welcomed presentation on development of ITS National Strategy in North Macedonia given by Mr Marjan Kopevski, Ministry of Communications and Transport and Jovan Hristoski, PIU unit, World Bank. Mr Kopevski presented the overall objective of the Strategy, its purpose, national challenges, ITS framework, and strategic objectives, reflected on the project progress, objectives and needs assessment for the National strategy, as well as key actions from the action plan. Mr Hristoski elaborated on the actions, and implementation schedule, budgetary planning, and the concept for National Traffic Management Center.
13. RTC members welcomed CONNECTA presentation on ITS strategy in the Western Balkans, given by Mr Marios Domoxoudis, Road & ITS Expert. General principles of ITS, goals and objectives for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo and the minimum TMC functions were presented.
14. RTC members welcomed the presentation on TCT Secretariat's technical assistance: Improving Climate Resilience and Adaptation Measures in the Indicative Extension of TEN-T Road and rail Networks in Western Balkans given by Mr Aleksandar Bajovic from Arup. Overall project context, objective, timeline as well as project activities and envisaged deliverables were briefly introduced. Regional Partners were informed about the list of data/information needed for the Project, to be obtained from each of them.
15. Martina Hakl, Desk Officer for Passenger Rights and Social Issues from TCT Secretariat shared information on monitoring yearly progress in implementation of Social Acquis, as per the Action Plan endorsed by the RSC on 28 March. All Regional Partners were encouraged to share with TCT Secretariat their contact points in the area of passenger rights/social issues.
16. Delegations of Serbia and Georgia expressed need for capacity building in auditing the tachograph system in line with AETR and EU Directive.
17. RTC members welcomed information about the indicative timeline for 2023 TEN-T Annual Report given by Mircea Tenovici, TCT Secretariat. Data collection and update from RPs is planned for June 2023, TEN-T compliance analysis and report drafting in July – August 2023, stakeholders' consultation in September 2023 and the endorsement by Regional Steering Committee should take place in October 2023, followed by endorsement by Ministerial Council in November 2023. Data collection and update process for 2023 will be managed entirely through TODIS.
18. Regional Partners briefly presented the current status and plans for the implementation of the Flagship Projects included in the Economic and Investment Plan for Western Balkans. This will be a recurrent topic on the agendas of future meetings of the Road Technical Committee:

- a. Flagship 1, Project 1 (Nis – Pristina “Peace Highway”)
 - i. Kosovo: no progress with regard to the loan negotiation
 - ii. Serbia: Works on-going for Sector 1 of Nis – Plocnik, lengthy design review procedures
 - b. Flagship 2, Project 1 (Corridor Vc):
 - i. Updated financing plan for the entire Corridor Vc was envisaged for March 2023
 - ii. 3 grant applications submitted for WBIF INV Round 8
 - iii. Price escalation is likely to affect both projects under preparation and on-going.
 - c. Flagship 2, Project 2 (Bar – Boljare)
 - i. Montenegro will submit updates in writing.
 - d. Flagship 2, Project 3 (Sarajevo – Podgorica connection)
 - i. Bosnia: agreement on the cross-border bridge
 - ii. Montenegro: will submit updates in writing.
 - e. Flagship 3, Project 1 (The Blue Highway):
 - i. Montenegro: will submit updates in writing.
 - ii. Albania: progresses with the concession and Kashar interchange.
19. TCT Secretariat announced that the focus in 2023 will be on capacity building on road maintenance, tackling Road Asset Management Systems; study visit on e-tolling interoperability; ITS regional conference to present the ongoing ITS strategies in the region and first annual meeting of directors of road authorities, based on signed MoU, as well as 2 workshops were envisaged within ongoing project on Improving Climate Resilience. Two additional JASPERS seminars for project preparation will be also organised, the first being scheduled in late May/early June.
20. Following the completion of the questionnaire on the needs for technical assistance/capacity buildings Regional Partners and Observing Participants, the top three areas are:
- ITS Deployment. General knowledge of ITS principles, institutional structure set up as per ITS Directive, preparation of Rulebooks, FRAME Architecture
 - Road Maintenance practices, RAMS
 - Admission to the occupation of road operators
- RTC members were invited to express their specific ideas on the technical assistance needs and submit them to TCT Secretariat in writing.
21. The next meeting will take place in person in June. Respective dates and timing will be notified in due course.