



12th Road Technical Committee meeting

4 July 2023, 09.30 – 17.00, Ljubljana

Agreed Conclusions

1. The members of the Road Technical Committee (RTC) appreciated Mr. Matej Zakonjšek's opening remarks, the Director of the TCT Secretariat. Mr. Zakonjšek emphasized that the focus in the upcoming period of 2023 would be on preparing progress reports for both the Action Plans and the implementation of the EU acquis, as well as the progress of the TEN-T. These reports are expected to be endorsed at the upcoming RSC meeting and the Ministerial Council, scheduled to take place in November in North Macedonia. He highlighted key road-related activities that took place during the first half of 2023, including the first annual meeting of directors of road authorities in May 2023, based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2022; study visit on e-tolling interoperability in AISCAT and Autostrade per l'Italia, Rome, and announced an ITS regional conference and capacity building program on road maintenance to be held during the second half of 2023. Additionally, he encouraged the region to translate ITS strategies into local languages, using the latest outputs from the CONNECTA project.
2. The RTC members welcomed Mr. Goran Buhač as the new member from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and also acknowledged the participation of Mr. Stanislav Skurtu from the State Road Administration of the Republic of Moldova.
3. Mr. Marjan Kopevski, the Chair of the Technical Committee, extended a warm welcome to all participants and wished them a productive meeting.
4. The meeting agenda was adopted without any comments or objections.
5. Regarding the Progress Report on Action Plans, the TCT Secretariat informed the RTC members that the format of the next report would change to include dedicated fiches for each action plan, with individual scoring for each item. This modification would enhance the visibility of progress in the report's structure. The TCT Secretariat provided the following timeline updates:
 - The deadline for inputs from the RPs was set for June 26. The Regional Partners that didn't submit yet the information in writing were kindly requested to do so promptly to ensure an accurate assessment of progress.
 - The TCT Secretariat would draft the report during July and August.
 - The draft report would be shared with RTC members for comments at the beginning of September.
 - The final report will be presented by the end of September in Road Technical Committee.
 - The report will be approved at the RSC meeting in October.
 - The Regional Ministerial Council would endorse the report in November.
6. Regional Partners briefly presented the status and progress made with the implementation of the Road Action Plan.

- **Albania.** Albania is currently engaged in negotiations regarding the termination of the RAMS contract. The Service Level Agreement is still pending approval, awaiting the restructuring of ARA (Albanian Road Authority). The tender process for the Traffic Control Center is in its final stage. A World Bank project focusing on climate resilience for bridges (27) is nearing approval and is expected to be officially approved within 2023. A new legal act addressing passenger rights in road transport has been drafted. A detailed progress report has been submitted to the TCT Secretariat.
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina.** TCT Secretariat is expecting the progress report at the state level from the member of Road TC. The multiannual maintenance plans – 3-year planning and 4-year maintenance contracts are still in force. When it comes to RAMS – each company in BiH has its inventory database which is not up to date. No progress in signing of Service Level Agreement. Funding for road maintenance strategy includes user charges for future investments, but loans are still needed. Regarding e-tolling interoperability since 19 June there is one tag in use in all the road network in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The detailed progress report is still pending.
- **Kosovo***. Draft Law on roads went through the public discussion and will be sent to the government for approval. Approval of the Administrative Instruction on ITS still pending upon the approval of Law on Roads. Draft ITS strategy which will cover all modes of transport was sent to the ministries and comments are expected. Ministry held meetings with the World Bank for support to start deployment of ITS and RAMS, both in the same package. The detailed progress report is still pending.
- **North Macedonia.** The national strategy for ITS is prepared and it is expected to be adopted by Government. ITS Deployment on Corridor X south part - tender procedure started, public call was published this week. For the northern part, tender procedure expected to start in the next period. When it comes to interoperability, as of 1 July of interoperability of electronic toll collection between Serbia and North Macedonia is in place with a single tag device. The detailed progress report is still pending.
- **Montenegro.** The multiannual maintenance plan contract is valid until December 2023. Midterm plan for reconstruction is being prepared, expected date for finalisation is Q3 2023. Technical assistance will be provided through EU Delegation to Montenegro as of next year, aiming to transpose the EU Directive on alternative fuels. E-mobility results from CONNECTA and World Bank studies are expected to be included in the update of the national transport strategy. Detailed progress report delivered to TCT Secretariat.
- **Serbia.** ITS strategy activities are in the final stage of preparation, the draft is expected after summer. Working groups to amend the law on roads which will include further transposition of Directive 2010/40 and Directive 2004/52 (etc.) into the national legislation have been established. The works for the regional ITS centre in Nis have been completed and it has been put into operation. Procurement of additional equipment for regional ITS center Nis is

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

ongoing. When it comes to interoperability, as of 1 July of interoperability of electronic toll collection between Serbia and North Macedonia is in place with a single tag device. The detailed progress report is still pending.

All Regional Partners were invited to deliver their progress to TCT Secretariat in writing by 17 July 2023.

7. Observing Participant's Road Action Plan. Following a round of consultations which took place in May, a draft Road Action Plan prepared by the TCT Secretariat was sent to the European Commission for the opinion.
8. TCT Secretariat shared the latest activities in the area of passenger rights and social issues:
 - Establishing the informal groups on tachographs and for passenger rights;
 - The ongoing study visit in Ljubljana dedicated to smart tachographs audit procedures;
 - Study visit to European Labour Authority in autumn;
 - Study on passengers' rights. The study (technical assistance) dedicated to passenger rights aims to improve the transposition and implementation of legislation in this area in WB6, in line with EU best-case practice examples, as well as with obligations deriving from the Annex of the TC Treaty. The tender will be launched in late summer/early autumn, and the contract will last 11 months.
9. The Transport Community Secretariat is planning to undertake a study on the improvement of the admissions to the occupation of road operators for road haulage and passenger transport companies and potential digital exchange of bilateral permits. The Concept Note will be shared with members of the Road Technical Committee.
10. TCT Secretariat presented the current state of EIP Road projects, highlighting the problematic issues requiring updates and/or specific actions.
 - **Albania**
 - Flagship 3, Project 1 (the "Blue Highway")
 - Tirana bypass is considerably delayed;
 - Works have already started on the first sections awarded through concession.
 - **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
 - Flagship 2, Project 1 (Corridor Vc Motorway)
 - Vukosavlje – Johovac section has been apparently suspended, no specific reason was mentioned.
 - Significant cost increases that need to be accommodated by identifying the funding source and a proper solution for modifying the ongoing contracts in this regard (to the extent possible).
 - Revision of the Feasibility Study for the sections from Ovcarci to Mostar South might question the already-chosen technical solutions.
 - Flagship 2, Project 3 (Sarajevo – Podgorica connection)
 - Common agreement with MME for joint application that will apparently include the section Foca – Hum and the cross-border bridge;
 - **Kosovo**
 - Flagship 1, Project 1 (The "Peace Highway")
 - progress with loan contracting remains slow.

- no need to revise the current design, despite being finalised 5 years ago.
- **Montenegro**
 - Flagship 2, Project 2 (Bar-Boljare motorway)
 - 5th revision of the Feasibility Study is ongoing (the revision shall not look into the chosen technical solutions).
 - Based on the outcome of the revision, either Podgorica bypass or Andrijevica – Matesevo sections will move to the next design stage
 - Flagship 2, Project 3 (Sarajevo – Podgorica connection)
 - grant for project preparation shall be cancelled, as the outcomes are not of satisfactory quality, and the project shall be funded by state budget.
 - The joint grant application with Bosnia will include the cross-border bridge and 2.5 km of road on Montenegrin territory;
 - Flagship 3, Project 1 (the “Blue Highway”)
 - The corridor alignment in Boka Bay area has not been yet established, the final decision will impact greatly the overall layout.
- **Serbia**
 - Flagship 1, Project 1 (The “Peace Highway”)
 - Completion of sector 1 of Nis-Plocnik Section was scheduled for 1 July, but was further postponed for mid-July due to weather conditions.
 - For the other sectors up to Plocnik the Detailed Design is in advanced approval stage.
 - For Section Plocnik – Merdare the Preliminary Design is in advanced approval stage. Financing shall be ensured through IFI loan (EIB and EBRD).
 - Flagship 2, Project 2 (Belgrade – Boljare highway)
 - For section Preljina-Pozega the estimated deadline for completion is 2023-24.
 - Works ongoing on Pozega – Duga Poljana section. The signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Chinese contractor covers also section Duga Poljana – Boljare that will be coordinated with Montenegrin authorities,

All contributions related to project updates will be sent in writing to TCT Secretariat by each Regional Partner.

11. 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 Ms Ivana Stevanovic and Mr Milos Marjanovic, ARUP. The presentation tackled objective and context of the project, stakeholders’ engagement, used methodology and the preliminary results of vulnerability assessment in the region. Project deliverables including the timeline for the final report which will be issued in the course of 2023 (11 months after the contract commencement) were presented.
12. TCT Secretariat advised the Regional Partners to start the internal procedures for the approval of the ITS Strategies (all modes and modal ones).

13. All Regional Partners and Observing Participants were invited to express their needs for technical assistance in the course of 2024 and 2025, in order to reflect it in TCT Secretariat's budget which is being drafted.
14. TCT Secretariat informed the RTC members that by the end of 2023, 6 dedicated trainings on claim management will take place in all 6 capitals.
15. Second part of the RTC consisted of onsite visit to DARS and Slovenian National Access Point premises. Mr Matej Vovk from National Traffic Management Center presented regulatory framework and examples of successful practical deployment of ITS in Slovenia, in compliance with EU legislation. NAP portal that provides users with real-time access to traffic data and other sets of data <https://www.nap.si/en>.
16. Mr Brane Nastran, DARS Transport Management Center provided an overview of the functioning of the traffic management system at DARS premises, at different levels of road hierarchy from motorways to tunnels, regional and local roads.
17. Next RTC meeting will take place in Warsaw, Poland, back-to-back with Technical Committee on Road Safety, on 28-29 September.