

17th meeting of the Technical Committee on Railway

**Hybrid Meeting – Zagreb
05-06 October 2023**

Conclusions

1. The Agenda of the 17th Meeting of the Technical Committee on Railway was adopted unanimously.

Administrative matters:

2. On behalf of Montenegro, the new TC member will be Denis Lukac, Director of the Railway Directorate. On behalf of Serbia, instead of Teodora Milenkovic, the new TC member will be Ivana Djordjevic.
3. The meeting was attended by the representatives of DG MOVE, ERA, all six Western Balkan parties, Observing participants and Croatia.

Expert discussion - activities between the two TCs:

4. The TCT Secretariat presented a final draft of the Progress Report on the implementation of the Railway Action Plan. Average progress is not satisfactory, range was between 2% - 12% in the last twelve months.
5. Main pending issues by regional participants:

Albania

- Establishing the NSA will be done by the end of October 2023; NIB and RRA next year.
- Separation of the HSH will be completed by the end of 2023

Kosovo*

- Work on Railway Safety Law will start in October (after the approval of the concept document by the Cabinet of the Prime Minister)
- Multi-Annual Infrastructure Contract between Infracos and relevant authority will be signed in October 2023.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- New working group for drafting the Railway Law will be established by the end of the year.

Serbia

- Draft of the Railway Safety Law will be sent to the government procedure by October 2023. (the coming election in Serbia could be constrain for adoption at the level of government)
- The tender has been completed and the contract consultant has been signed. The work should be completed by mid-2025.

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North Macedonia

- National Investigation Body will be established by the end of 2023
- Railway System Law will be adopted by the Parliament by the end of 2023

(* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Montenegro

- Railway Law as well as Railway Safety Law would be adopted by the end of the year (once Parliament is established, the Ministry of Capital Investments will send laws into the procedure)
 - New private railway undertaking starts operation in MNE
6. Vasile Codreanu informed about the current state of play regarding railway legislation and projects in Moldova. The Railway Code, previously adopted by the parliament will be in force from 2024. Multi Annual Infrastructure Contract is prepared and should be signed in the coming period.
 7. Laurent Pratt from DG MOVE proposed establishing a dashboard with basic elements (as indicators) of the reforms (NSA, RRA, NIB, Network Statement, PSO, MAIC etc). TC Secretariat will draft it and share it with all partners.
 8. All regional participants, DG MOVE, ERA, and EU member states would contribute with proposals for the New Generation Action plan by **20 November**.
 9. The next TC on Railway will be held **on 5 and 6 December** (the place will be fixed in the coming days), focusing on discussing proposals for the New Generation Action Plan.
 10. All participants acknowledged the presentation done by Aurimas Brazys regarding the current revision of the TEN-T Network
 11. Regional participants as well as Moldova informed about the status of ongoing TEN-T projects:

Albania

- Tirana - Durres is 48% completed in physical and around 60% in the financial sphere.
- Vore – Hani Hotit will be ready for the tender procedure by the end of the year
- Both projects included electrification as additional work

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Dobož – Samac is ready for implementation (but still pending)
- Track overhaul of railway sections Podlugovi- Sarajevo, Dobož-Maglaj and Jelina-Zenica on Corridor Vc is prepared and should be done in 2023 and 2024.

Kosovo

- Detail design for section Lesak – Mitrovica is ongoing
- Construction works at the distances Fushe Kosova – Mitrovica and Fushe Kosova – Hani Elezit are ongoing and should be completed by 2025.

Montenegro

- Track overhaul of the railway sections railway line Lutovo – Bratonožici – Bioče will be done in the 2023/2024
- Railway station Bijelo Polje will become joint station for the border operations between Serbia and Montenegro
- Rehabilitation of the 13 steel bridges are prepared and will be implemented in 2024

North Macedonia

- Overhaul of the section Nogaevci – Negotino is completed.
- Construction works on distances Kumanovo- Beljakovce and Beljakovce-Kriva Palanka are in accordance with the schedule (expected deadline October 2024)
- Tender for the section Kriva Palanka – Bulgarian border will be published by the end of this year

Serbia

- Construction works at distance Nis – Dimitrovgrad will start in the coming weeks.
 - Nis – Brestovac will be completed by December 2024
 - Preliminary design for the Belgrade – Sid section will be done by March 2024
12. All participants welcomed the presentation given by Laurent Pratt regarding solidarity lanes and enhancing the possibility for the transport of grain from Ukraine towards suitable ports
 13. Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina will inform the TC Secretariat about further steps and plans related to the rail link between Bihac – Knin – Split (Unska pruga).
 14. All participants acknowledged the presentation done by Marina Matic and Nenad Zonjic - representatives of HAKOM – a Railway regulatory body in Croatia about their experience in transition period from 2014-2022.
 15. All participants have been informed by ERA representative – Cristoph Kaupat about coming training under the ERA umbrella.
 16. All participants welcomed the presentations done by Ivana Stevanovic and Milos about Improving climate resilience and adaptation measures in the indicative extension of TEN-T road and rail networks in the Western Balkans
 17. All regional participants will deliver data about transport volume in the previous period (December 2022 – September 2023). The template will be distributed by the TC Secretariat.

Done in Zagreb, on 05 October 2023.

