



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

29 September 2023

*Polonia Palace Hotel, Toronto conference room, Warsaw*

### **Agreed Conclusions**

1. The 15<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee on Road Safety took place in a hybrid format, in Polonia Palace Hotel in Warsaw, Poland on Friday, 29 September 2023. The meeting was held back-to-back with the 13<sup>th</sup> Road Technical Committee and the study visit to the Ministry of Infrastructure of Poland that took place on 28 September. The first day of the study visit focused on tunnel safety, roadworthiness and measures taken from Poland to reach the Performance Index (PIN) Award received from the European Transport Safety Council. The agenda covered topics of ITS implementation, e-tolling and alternative fuels as well. The special focus was on road safety traffic systems and procedures related to electronic tolls. The second day was dedicated to the practical part of electronic fee check – roadside inspection at MOP Brwinów Południe.
2. Ms Liljana Čela, TCT Secretariat's Desk Officer for Road Safety greeted participants, underlining the main outcomes and objectives of the study visit and practical exercise that took place the previous two days. She encouraged the members of TC to follow up on the specific topics and engage them and wished for a fruitful meeting.
3. Apologies of Chair, Mr Miroslav Đerić, Ministry of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina was noted due to health reasons.
4. The agenda of the 15<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee meeting was adopted without comments.
5. New members of the Technical Committee on Road Safety were introduced: Mr Bojan Mitovski, Junior Advisor, Department for Road Traffic and Infrastructure from the Ministry of Transport and Communications of North of Macedonia as well as two members from the Republic of Moldova: Ina Angheliuc, Deputy Director, National Agency of Road Transport and Veaceslav Bufteac, Deputy Head of the Road Transport Control Department, National Agency of Road Transport.
6. Mr Peter Whitten, Policy Officer from DG MOVE, European Commission presented the state of play and way forward to Joining CARE. The pilot project with Serbia started at the end of the 2021 year with testing feasibility, coverage, and the quality of the road safety data. After the positive outcome of the assessment, the CARE Expert Group and later in June 2023, the High-Level Group in Road Safety approved the observer status of Serbia. The TCT Secretariat and DG MOVE agreed to use Serbia as a

pilot case to test the feasibility and ideally give an incentive to the other regional participants to improve their data and be integrated in the future. There were two main reasons to start with Serbia. First, it seems they are the only Western Balkan regional participants currently with compatible CARE data and secondly, they have a relatively small discrepancy between the number of road deaths reported by the police and the figure estimated by WHO (based on vital registration statistics). In the CARE database, there are more than 70 variables of high and low importance. New categories of data introduced in the EU reporting will include data on e-bikes and scooters. A mini CADAS set of 20-25 variables is the strict minimum in data collection. Additional criteria for Joining CARE are to include geo-coordinates of each crash, a minimum number of years (3 years) of coherent data, and a relatively small discrepancy between road deaths reported by the police and the latest World Health Organization (WHO) figures.

7. EU intends to publish the final number of fatalities for 2022 in a press release to be issued before 19<sup>th</sup> October (indicative date). Like in previous years, a link to the Western Balkans regional partners' data will be published on the EC website.
8. Mr Wouter Van den Berger, Project Manager, on behalf of CDV & Tilkon, presented technical assistance for collecting Road Safety KPIs on Seat Belt and Child restraint Systems in the Western Balkans (Westbelt) funded by the TCT Secretariat. The project team, context and objectives, used method, criteria for selecting road safety KPIs, important milestones, deadlines and deliverables were explained in detail. The project started on 18 August 2023, and the selection of field researchers and the regional information session were completed in September. Six specific training sessions for measurement will take place online in October, while data collection will be during October and the beginning of November. Analysis and Progress Report should be completed in the period November 2023-January 2024. The final report should be prepared by 17 March 2023 and 6 meetings in person with Regional Partners will be held before.
9. Mr Uros Brumec from the Ministry of Infrastructure of Slovenia presented the "Safe to School" Guidelines project. The main challenges of the project, monitoring and evaluation of its effectiveness, results and main indicators in speed reduction were presented, as well as an overview of the cases from abroad. Results of Pilot project #BUSko for marking the school buses were introduced.
10. Ms Sanja Čarapić, Ministry of Capital informed participants about planned TAIEX Capacity Building – Road Safety Audit (RSA) and Road Safety Inspection (RSI) Tunnel Safety training. The agenda is being drafted and it will be shared with all Regional Partners and TCT Secretariat within the next 10 days. The training will take place from 4-6 December, in Montenegro and the venue will be decided in the

forthcoming days. Two key experts from Slovenia and one key expert from EU Member States will participate in RSA and RSI tunnel safety capacity building. Training will focus on the implementation.

11. Progress on the measures of the Road Safety Action Plan and EU Acquis was presented by Ms Liljana Čela. The number of fatalities in 2019-2022 per Regional Partners and overall progress in % per each measure were shown. The Third Progress Report on Implementation of Action Plans and EU acquis differs from the previous reports with an additional chapter in its structure that shows the percentage and progress of the measures per each regional partner. TCT Secretariat will present the document to the Regional Steering Committee on 18 October, and it should be endorsed by the Ministerial Council on 12 December 2023. The shorter version of the Progress of the Action Plans for the Observing Participants will be prepared by the TCT Secretariat, at a later stage.
  - a. **Serbia** reported developments during the last few days. The Law on amendments to the Law on road safety was adopted on 6 September. It introduces changes in roads for the participation of e-scooters, decreases the age limit for professional driver licences, improves safety at level crossings and tests autonomous vehicles in road safety. New rulebooks will follow the Law amendments. Serbia also reported that the new Strategy on Road Safety 2023-2030 and Action Plan for 3 years (by 2025) were adopted on 28 September 2023 in the Government session. Both documents were published in the Official Gazette on 5 October 2023.
12. Additional information received in conclusion point 11 and the comments that the TCT Secretariat is expecting from RSC members will be reflected in the text, scoring and graphs of the final version of the Progress Report.
13. The new generation of the Action Plans shall be discussed in the next Technical Committee meeting. The endorsement of these Action Plans is foreseen to be in the Ministerial Council of Transport Community to be held by the end of the 2024 year.
14. TCT Secretariat will notify in writing the members of the Technical Committee and Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory of the upcoming meetings of these groups.