

It is already autumn, and the Transport Community brings you the selected news on enhancing connectivity in the Western Balkans just for you. Below are our key September highlights. Enjoy the read!

Government officials, railway companies, railway industry leaders and stakeholders from the Western Balkans have gathered in Belgrade, Serbia, for a landmark event introducing the cutting-edge **Digital Automatic Coupling (DAC)** technology. Digital Automatic Coupling is a game-changer in the evolution of rail freight and is set to transform the way rail freight operates, with its innovative approach to coupling and uncoupling rail vehicles. It enhances the safety, efficiency, and sustainability of the railway system. Read more [here](#).



On **World Maritime Day**, celebrated on 28 September, in collaboration with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the EU Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, and the Ministry of Capital Investments of Montenegro, we hosted a conference on green and sustainable maritime transport. The conference was followed by the **7th Meeting of Transport Community's Technical Committee for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality**. Learn more details [here](#).



We also joined the celebration of the **European Mobility Week** by actively promoting cycling as an alternative mode of transportation to raise awareness on the importance of saving energy and of environmental protection. Together with Minister of Transport and Communications of North Macedonia, Mr Blagoj Bochvarski, Mayor of the Municipality of Dojran, Mr Anjo Angov, and young people, Transport Community Director, Mr Matej Zakonjšek, joined the promotional bike ride in the city on Thursday, 21 September. Find out more [here](#).



As part of Albania's presidency of the Berlin Process, the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania organised the **meeting of the Berlin Process participants' economic ministers** in Tirana on 26 September 2023. These efforts are in preparation for the upcoming Summit of Western Balkan Leaders in Tirana, where further progress is expected to be discussed and acknowledged. Read more about our participation in the meeting [here](#).





Members of the **Technical Committees on Road and Road Safety** of the TCT Secretariat, representatives of Ministries of Transport and Road Authorities in Western Balkans in charge of road and road safety gathered in Warsaw, Poland, for a two-day **study visit** focused on knowledge-sharing of enforcement and implementation of European Union's (EU) road transport legislation. Following the visit, further discussions concluded the Road and Road Safety Technical Committees. More details about the study visit could be found [here](#).



The European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) is organising the **IPA Rail Freight Seminar** in Belgrade, Serbia, on 12-13 September, targeting railway experts from South East Europe. As ERA's strategic partner, we hosted the seminar at our premises in Belgrade. The seminar addresses two critical topics – transport of dangerous goods and risk management as well as multimodality in rail. Read more [here](#).



In cooperation with the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX), we have organised an **expert mission to enhance Albania's and its firefighters' capacity for emergency intervention during the transport of dangerous goods**. This expert mission, which ran in Tirana and Durrës from 18 to 20 September, saw cooperation between Albania and two Nordic nations, Sweden, and Finland. More details are available [here](#).

During September, we also met stakeholders, young people, and our partners and friends, discussing our cooperation for a shared goal – better, safer, and more sustainable transport across the Western Balkans. Among our counterparts were [Minister Momirović](#), [Minister Aliu](#), [UNECE](#), [United Nations Road Safety Fund](#), [German Federal Government](#), [ambassadors participants in the Berlin Process](#), [civil society organisations](#), [young people of North Macedonia](#), and a [high-level delegation from the Republic of Moldova](#).

**Don't miss the opportunity to work with us.** We launched two open calls for tenderers - [Technical Assistance on Strengthening Regulatory Framework for Passenger Rights in the Western Balkans](#) and [Technical Assistance on Multimodality, Terminal Assessment, and Digitalisation](#). Click on the links to learn more details and apply.

October is already running, and it brings more events and activities. Stay tuned for the next recap – the next edition of our newsletter!

**#TogetherConnected**