



19th meeting of the Technical Committee on Railway

**Vienna, Austria
27-28 February 2024**

Conclusions

1. The Agenda of the 19th Meeting of the Technical Committee on Railway was adopted unanimously.

Administrative matters:

2. Considering that it was the first TC on the Railway in 2024, the handover for the Chairperson is done. The chair for 2024 will be Mr Sefedin Sefaj from Kosovo*.
3. The meeting was attended by the representatives of ERA, JASPERS, all six Western Balkan Parties, Georgia (observer), The Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) from Austria, OBB Infrastructure, Rail Cargo Austria, SBB Austria.
4. New reimbursement rules are in force based on the decision by the Regional Steering Committee from 11. December 2023. The duration of the reimbursement process should not be longer than seven days from the moment of completion of all documents.

Expert discussion:

5. All regional partners as well as other participants expressed satisfaction with a very well-organized visit to the Rail Central Station in Vienna as well as with presentations done by experts from OBB Infrastructure.
6. The TCT Secretariat presented a new generation Rail Action Plan:
 - All RPs contributed to the discussion about content, measures and sub-measures.
 - An updated version of the document, prepared by TCT Secretariat will be delivered to all RPs together with Conclusions from the meeting
 - All RPs will send their feedback regarding a new version of the Rail Action Plan by 11 March.
 - Adoption of the new Railway Action plan at the technical level will be on the next TC on Railway in June.
 - Adoption by Regional Steering Committee – October 2024
7. This year in November, TCT Secretariat will publish the last Progress Report on the implementation of the Rail Action Plan 2020-2024.
8. All regional partners have been informed about a new way of preparing the TEN-T Report as well as the year rolling Plan. TODIS will be used as a tool for data collection as well as for preparation of reports. All regional partners will be in touch with regional users and coordinators appointed at the national level to ensure an easy data collection process. Certain numbers of trainings will be organised by TCT Secretariat with the aim to provide adequate education for regional users and coordinators in each regional partner. All training will be done in April this year.

(*) 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

9. All participants acknowledged the presentation by Mr. Heinz Gschnitzer, Mr. Viktor Plank and Mr Jean-Marc Hillenberg from OBB Infrastructure. Topics that they covered were: the history of Central Rail Station and challenges during preparation and construction works, Framework agreement and investments in the next years in Austria and upcoming capacity regulation and its implications on interoperability.
10. All participants have been informed by ERA representative – Christoph KAUPAT about the ERA calendar and plan for the current year. Some of the activity will be realized together with the TCT Secretariat.
11. All participants expressed satisfaction with the presentation given by Mr Goran Jokic from Rail Cargo Austria. The focus was on the core activities of the company but also activities in the Western Balkan
12. Regional partner updated about ongoing/finance secured/under preparation TEN-T projects

Albania:

- Tirana – Durres – The deadline for the completion project based on the current contract is the end of 2024, while three new components have different deadline dates:
- Building of stations – June 2025. The tender will be soon, and the estimation for a budget - 14 M EUR
- Line extension for 4 km to the city centre – end of 2025
- Electrification of the whole line – end of 2025. Estimation budget 15 mil EUR for electrification and line extension.
- Vore – Hani Hotit. The loan agreement with EBRD has been signed in London a few days ago. The tender will be published in May this year. Estimation budget – 369 M EUR with 36 months for construction works.
- Durres - Rogozhine – WBIF grant 67 M EUR approved in Dec 2023. Negotiation with EBRD for a loan is ongoing. Estimation budget 120 M EUR

Montenegro:

Podgorica – Tuzi – 22 km– Conceptual design is completed.

Golubovci – Bar – tender will be published in 2024

Trebinjica – Bioce – Loan agreement has been signed, 18 M EUR budget estimated.

Serbia

- Novi Sad – Subotica – completion of works – the end of 2024. Works on the side of Hungary will not be completed in the same time (estimation is the end of 2025).
- Nis – Dimitrovgrad is ongoing, civil works and electrification will be completed in April 2026. By pass around Nis will be completed in September 2026 and telecommunication and signaling on whole line will be completed by December 2026.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Samac -Kostajnica – project documentation completed
- Kostajnica (Doboj) - Rjecica – The deadline for completion of technical documentation extended by 28.06.2024.

- Tuzla – Zvornik – preliminary design completed in 2023
- Dobož – Tuzla – preliminary design completed in 2016. godine

Kosovo

Phase 1: Fushe Kosove – border with North Macedonia:

- • The present value of project elapsed time is 85.3% (52.08 months); the revised Completion Date with Addendum No. 4 is 30.09.2024.
- • The current physical progress of the main line reaches 83.1%; 66.159 km of the railway track has been installed out of 79.57 km, which is the total length of the primary and secondary line (primary rail track: 54.883 km out of 65.717 km (83.5 %); secondary rail track: 11.277 km out of 13.857km (81.4%));

Phase 2 Fushe Kosove - Mitrovica

- • Civil works contract signed on 8 December 2021
- • Based on Addendum No. 1, the works started on 10 October 2022 – the end date for works is planned for 08 January 2024; With Agreement no. 3 the parties have agreed to extend temporarily the Completion date until March 8, 2024
- • Phase 3 Mitrovica - Leshak
- The detailed design for the Mitrovica- Leshak railway line (WB15-KOS-TRA-01), is planned to finish on September 30, 2025

A tender announcement for signalling and telecommunication for the first and second phases of railway route 10 (Hani I Elezit – Fushe Kosove – Mitrovica) will be made in Q3 of 2024 according to the National Development Plan of Kosovo (2023–2025).

North Macedonia

- Section Kumanovo - Beljakovce should be completed by October 2024, current progress of works – 54%
- Section Beljakovce – Kriva Palanka should be completed by January 2026
- Tender for Project Implementation Support and Supervision Engineering Services of the Rail Joint Border Station joint station Tabanovce will be published in the coming months.

13. All participants welcomed the presentation given by Ms Tatjana Mirkovic from SBB Austria related to the Izmir – Ankara project.

14. Regional partners will send operational data for November in December 2023 in the aim to complete the Transport Operation report for 2023.

15. All regional partners are reminded by the TCT Secretariat that the new CONNECTA cycle is ongoing. RPs have an opportunity to submit proposals as soon as possible.

16. The next TC on Railway will be held **in June** (the place will be fixed in the coming time).



Done in Vienna, 28/02/2024.

