

# **Joint meeting**

## **Network of Road Executives and Railway Infrastructure Managers**

**3 June 2026**

**Hotel Scandic Grand Central, Helsinki**

### **AGREED CONCLUSIONS**

1. The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network of Road Executives was organised jointly with the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network of Railway Infrastructure Managers in Helsinki. Back-to-back with the meeting it was organised the study visit to FinTraffic on Digital Transport Systems in roads and railways.
2. Participants welcomed the study visit to Fintraffic and the opportunity to gain first-hand insight into Finland's integrated approach to traffic management, digitalisation, data governance, and multimodal transport operations. The exchange of practical experiences and lessons learned provided valuable inspiration for the Western Balkans, particularly in relation to the development of traffic management centres, data-sharing frameworks and digital transformation of road and rail transport. Participants acknowledged the importance of continued knowledge exchange and cooperation with Fintraffic and Finnish stakeholders, recognising that many of the presented solutions and institutional approaches could serve as valuable references for the ongoing modernisation of transport systems across the region.
3. The members acknowledged the absence of representatives from PE Autoputevi RS, PE Putevi RS, PE Autoceste FBiH, the Macedonian PE of State Roads, Serbian Railways Infrastructure and The Railways of Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as from the Republic of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.
4. Cooperation Framework for Climate - Proofing Road and Rail Infrastructure in Extreme Weather Events. The workshop discussions demonstrated a strong common understanding among infrastructure managers and transport authorities that climate resilience can no longer be addressed through isolated or reactive measures. Participants recognised that increasing exposure of transport infrastructure to extreme weather events requires a more coordinated, proactive and regionally integrated approach, supported by stronger preparedness,

operational cooperation and knowledge sharing. While many organisations have already introduced resilience measures, significant challenges remain in terms of institutional coordination, technical capacities, workforce availability and access to funding.

Based on the discussions, six priority areas were identified to guide future activities and regional cooperation efforts: (i) strengthening regional cooperation and communication mechanisms, (ii) enhancing preparedness and operational coordination, (iii) building technical capacities and expertise, (iv) improving institutional cooperation (v) addressing funding and implementation challenges, and (vi) defining and strengthening the supporting role of the Transport Community Secretariat. These areas provide a practical framework for advancing climate resilience, improving emergency preparedness and operational response, and supporting the implementation of the regional cooperation framework for climate-proofing transport infrastructure.

- **Short Term Priorities**

- a) Regional Cooperation and Communication**

- Establish structured communication channels with nominated contact points for real-time information sharing during climate-related disruptions.
    - Define clear communication protocols on infrastructure damage, network disruptions, and recovery actions to be shared systematically among all relevant stakeholders.
    - Occasionally organise joint meetings of the network of road directors and rail infrastructure managers on issues of resilience.

- b) Preparedness and Operational Coordination**

- Creation of inventory list of equipment necessary for climate proofing and extreme weather events.

- c) Capacity Building and Expertise**

- Organise joint exercises, workshops, and training programmes to improve preparedness and response capacity.

- d) Funding and Implementation**

- Exploration of access to funding and utilisation of EU financial instruments as key enablers for resilience investments and preparedness measures.

- **Mid-Term Priorities**

- a) Regional Cooperation and Communication**

- Transition from isolated national responses to sustained coordinated regional action, including mutual support mechanisms, backup teams, and shared equipment from the neighboring regional partners.

#### **b) Preparedness and Operational Coordination**

- Embed proactive climate resilience planning into standard operational frameworks and maintenance plans across all transport modes and economies.
- Develop unified methodology to be used by all companies assessing climate vulnerability.
- Prepare/translate technical guidance on climate resilience.
- Define joint emergency response procedures.
- Develop pilot activities related to resilience actions.

#### **c) Capacity Building and Expertise**

- Address workforce gaps through continuous training, knowledge transfer and specialised recruitment.
- Facilitate greater sharing of best practices and experience from Western Balkans regional participants.
- Facilitate greater sharing of best practices and experience from EU Member States.

#### **d) Institutional Cooperation**

- Strengthening cross-modal coordination, particularly between road and rail authorities as well as institutional cooperation between different authorities on national and regional levels.
- Establish dedicated in-house technical or working groups to address climate resilience and emergency preparedness.
- Develop integrated regional recovery planning and joint climate action frameworks at institutional level.

#### **e) Funding and Implementation**

- Address procurement and administrative barriers to timely implementation of resilience measures.
- Secure long-term funding pipelines for infrastructure resilience investments, ensuring adequate resources for both physical upgrades and operational preparedness.

- **Expected Role of the Transport Community Secretariat (TCT)**

- Facilitate regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms.
- Support establishment of communication channels, contact points, and notification systems.
- Provide technical guidance and disseminate EU best practices.
- Assist with training, joint exercises, and capacity-building activities.

- Support climate risk mapping and monitor implementation progress.
  - Facilitate access to EU funding and provide guidance on project development.
5. Participants welcomed the presentation of the Transport Community's capacity-building and technical assistance activities supporting the establishment of National Access Points (NAPs) and the designation of National Bodies in the Western Balkans. They recognised the importance of these initiatives for improving data availability, interoperability, and compliance with regional and European ITS requirements.
  6. Participants also welcomed the update on the establishment of the Rail Centre of Excellence, acknowledging its potential to strengthen regional cooperation, facilitate knowledge exchange, and support capacity building in the rail sector.
  7. The participants supported the proposal for regular joint meetings of the network of Road Directors and Railway Infrastructure Managers on issues of common interest.