



MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
WESTERN BALKANS REGIONAL
NETWORK OF SAFETY
AUTHORITIES, INVESTIGATION
BODIES, AND RAILWAY
REGULATORY BODIES

THE FUTURE IS ON TRACKS



MAY 29, 2025
WESTERN BALKANS RAIL SUMMIT
Podgorica 2025



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WESTERN BALKANS REGIONAL NETWORK OF SAFETY AUTHORITIES, INVESTIGATION BODIES, AND RAILWAY REGULATORY BODIES

Western Balkans Rail Summit, Podgorica 2025

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made between all relevant: Safety Authorities (NSAs), Investigation Bodies (NIBs), and Railway Regulatory Bodies (RRBs) in the Western Balkans (as the Parties) and the Transport Community Observing Participants (as the Observers):

Parties:

“Albanian Railway Safety Authority” – “RSA”,

“Railway Regulatory Board of Bosnia and Herzegovina” – “Regulatorni odbor željeznica - ROŽ”,



“Railway Regulatory Authority of Kosovo^{}” – “Autoriteti Rregullativ i Hekurudhave - ARH”,*

“Commission for the Investigation of Aeronautical Accidents and Incidents of Kosovo - CIAAI” – “Komisioni për Hetimin e Aksidenteve dhe Incidenteve Aeronautike -KHAIA”,

“Railway Safety Authority of Republic of North Macedonia” – “Uprava za Sigurnost”,

“Railway Regulatory Agency of Republic of North Macedonia” – “Agencija za reguliranje na pazarot na zelesnicki uslugi”,

“Railway Authority of Montenegro” - “Uprava za Željeznice Crne Gore”,

“National Investigation Commission of accidents and serious incidents of aircraft, emergency occurrences which endanger safety of railway traffic, and maritime incidents and accidents of Montenegro” - “Nacionalna komisija za istraživanje nesreća i ozbiljnih nezgoda vazduhoplova, vanrednih događaja koji ugrožavaju bezbjednost željezničkog saobraćaja i pomorskih nezgoda i nesreća Crne Gore”

“Directorate for Railways of Republic of Serbia” - “Direkcija za železnice” Republika Srbija,

“Centre for Investigation of Traffic Accidents of Republic of Serbia” - “Centar za istraživanje nesreća u saobraćaju” Republika Srbija,

Observers:

“LEPL - Rail Transport Agency of Georgia”,

^{*} 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



“Transport Safety Investigation Bureau” Georgia,

“Railway Agency” Moldova,

“Transport Accident and Incident Investigation Office” Moldova,

“Competition Council” Moldova,

“State Service of Ukraine for Transport Safety” Ukraine,

“National Commission for State Regulation of Transport” Ukraine.

PREAMBLE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made and entered into by and between the relevant: Safety Authorities (NSAs), Investigation Bodies (NIBs), and Railway Regulatory Bodies (RRBs) of the Western Balkans region, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties." Recognising the need for enhanced cooperation in railway safety, accident investigation, and regulatory harmonisation, and acknowledging the European Union's railway safety framework and railway market regulatory principles, the Parties agree to establish the Western Balkans Regional Network of NSAs, NIBs, and RRBs to promote harmonisation, collaboration, and the exchange of best practices.

1. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this MoU are to:

- Strengthen regional cooperation in railway safety, investigation, and regulation.*
- Exchange information, best practices, and technical expertise.*
- Develop common investigation methodologies and harmonised safety and regulatory frameworks.*
- Promote the functional independence of NSAs, NIBs, and Railway Regulatory Bodies.*



- *Foster collaboration with European institutions, including the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) and the Independent Regulators' Group - Rail (IRG-Rail).*

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NETWORK

The Parties hereby agree to establish the Western Balkans Regional Network of NSAs, NIBs, and Railway Regulatory Bodies, hereinafter referred to as "the Network." The Network shall serve as a platform for cooperation, information exchange, and harmonisation of safety, investigation, and regulatory practices in the region.

3. OBSERVERS

The Permanent Secretariat of Transport Community (TCT Secretariat), the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Railways, the relevant Networks of European NIBs, NSAs, and Railway Regulatory Bodies, and the Transport Community Observing Participants can participate in the Network Plenary meetings and other Network structures as observers and shall nominate their respective representatives.

The Network may decide to grant an observer status to other individuals, organisations, or public entities, where relevant, for participation in specific structures of the Network.

Observers and their representatives may take part in the discussions and provide expertise: however, they shall not have voting rights and shall not participate in the final stage of formulation of recommendations or advice of the Network.

4. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

4.1 Plenary Meetings

- *The Network shall hold plenary meetings at least twice per year.*
- *Meetings may be hosted by a participating authority or conducted virtually.*
- *Agendas shall be prepared and circulated at least three weeks in advance.*



4.2 Organising Group

- *The Organising Group shall consist of 4-6 NSA/NIB/RRA representatives and the TCT Secretariat.*
- *Responsibilities include agenda-setting, monitoring action points, and coordinating activities.*
- *Membership in the Organising Group is for a term of three years.*

4.3 Subgroups

- *The Network may establish Subgroups to address specific technical or regulatory issues.*
- *Each Subgroup shall have a clear mandate, objectives, and deliverables.*
- *Reports from Subgroups shall be presented at plenary meetings.*

5. IMPLEMENTATION AND COOPERATION

- *The Parties commit to active participation and contribution to the Network's initiatives.*
- *The Network shall liaise with European and international institutions to align regional practices with EU standards.*
- *The Network may engage in joint activities, including training, peer reviews, and workshops.*

6. FUNDING AND RESOURCES

- *Each Party shall bear its own costs related to participation in the Network.*
- *External funding may be sought for specific activities or projects.*

7. DURATION, AMENDMENTS, AND TERMINATION

7.1 Duration



- *This MoU shall enter into force on the date of signature and shall remain in effect for an initial period of five (5) years and may be upgraded upon mutual agreement. If not automatically is prolonged for the next 5 years.*

7.2 Amendments

- *Amendments to this MoU must be agreed upon in writing by all Parties.*

7.3 Termination

- *Any Party may withdraw from this MoU by providing three (3) months' written notice.*

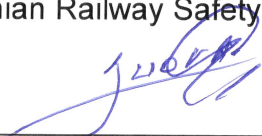
8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- *Any disputes arising from this MoU shall be resolved amicably through consultation among the Parties.*

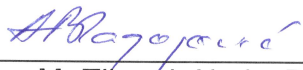
9. SIGNATURES

This Memorandum of Understanding is signed by the duly authorised representatives of the participating NSAs, NIBs and RRBs as of the date indicated below.

Albanian Railway Safety Authority


Mr Dorjan Nova, Head of the
Interoperability Department

Railway Regulatory Board of Bosnia
and Herzegovina


Mr Tihomir Naric, Director

Railway Regulatory Authority of
Kosovo


Ms Zyrafete Zejnullahu – Krasniqi,
Director

Commission for the Investigation of
Aeronautical Accidents and Incidents


Mr Martin Halilaj, Head of Unit



*Railway Safety Authority of Republic
of North Macedonia*

A blue ink signature of Mr Aleksandar Donev, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' and 'D'.

Mr Aleksandar Donev, Director

*Railway Regulatory Agency of
Republic of North Macedonia*

A blue ink signature of Mr Kreshimir Pavikj, featuring a stylized 'K' and 'P'.

Mr Kreshimir Pavikj, Director

Railway Authority of Montenegro

A blue ink signature of Mr Denis Lukac, featuring a stylized 'D' and 'L'.

Mr Denis Lukac, Director

*National Investigation Commission of
accidents and serious incidents of
aircraft, emergency occurrences
which endanger safety of railway
traffic, and maritime incidents and
accidents of Montenegro*

A blue ink signature of Mr Darko Conc, featuring a stylized 'D' and 'C'.

Mr Darko Conc, Head of Commission

*Directorate for Railways of Republic
of Serbia*

A blue ink signature of Ms Liljana Kostic, featuring a stylized 'L' and 'K'.

Ms Liljana Kostic, Acting Director

*Center for Investigation of Accidents
in Transport of Serbia*

A blue ink signature of Mr Miroslav Stojčić, featuring a stylized 'M' and 'S'.

*Mr Miroslav Stojčić, Acting Assistant
to Director*