



**1st meeting of the Network of Infrastructure Managers
Skopje, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
09th February 2022 13:00-17:00
Conclusions**

1. The Agenda of the meeting was adopted without comments. All Infrastructure Managers (IM) welcomed the idea to establish Network of Infrastructure Managers.
2. Mr Hari Lokvenec was appointed as a Chairperson of the Network of IM.
3. TCT Secretariat presented draft Rules of Procedure of the Railway Infrastructure Managers Network of the Western Balkans – RIMN WB. The Rules envisage mandate and scope of action of the Network, membership, appointment process, observers, operation of the Network, plenary meetings – chiring and coordination, establishment of subgroups, joint meetings with other bodies, correspondence, and coordination with TC Technical Committee on Railways.
4. Mr Xhevat Ramosaj, representative of Infrakos, raised the following comments and suggestions:
 - To name the document “Regulation” instead of “Rules”, whereas “points” should be replaced with “articles”
 - List of abbreviations should be added in the beginning of the document
 - Technical error from point 1 should be replaced: instead of referring to article 7f of Directive 2012/34, it should refer to the same article of its amendment, Directive 2016/370
 - Term of rotation of Chairperson should be one year instead of two years
 - Procedure for appointment of deputy Chair should be further developed and clarified (it is suggested that the current deputy could be appointed as the next chair etc.)
 - In point 7, some of the subgroups may be set up only by notifying the Chair, not necessarily in agreement with the Chair (e.g. for certain issues not relevant for all IM).
5. TC Secretariat will reflect all remarks into the second version of Rules and Procedures.
6. TC Secretariat will take in consideration question of financing further meetings of RIMN WB at least one per year.
7. All Infrastructure Managers will send written comments and remarks to the proposed Rules of Procedure by the end of February 2022 to TCT Secretariat.

8. Mr Christoph Kaupat from European Union Agency for Railways welcomed the establishment of such cooperation of IM in Western Balkans, which would help to strengthen capacities as well as to develop businesses with EU neighboring countries.
9. Lack of human resources (ageing staff, rapid digitalization which requires IT skilled staff, maintenance) was reiterated as one of the main problems. IMs suggested to establish regional training centre for staff education with exchange of skills and knowledge. Modes of financing of such centre should be further discussed (under IPA funds/ project financing etc.).
10. All participants consider maintenance as the main obstacle for the rail sustainability.
11. Better regional connectivity is reiterated as the main priority for all IM in the region. All IMs presented the current situation regarding railway infrastructure, its main ongoing projects and challenges.
12. Next meeting is suggested to take place in North Macedonia in the May 2022. Tentative date is 9th of May. Exact date and place will be confirmed in due time. It is suggested that the meetings should take place in the territory of the chairing regional partner during its mandate, but this should still be confirmed in the Rules of Procedure. Two meetings are suggested to take place in the course of 2022.

Done in Skopje on 9 February 2022