



Presidency Conclusions of Ministerial Council of Transport Community

Skopje, 12 December 2023

The contracting parties and observing participants of the Ministerial Council of the Transport Community:

1. Express appreciation for the chairmanship of the Transport Community Ministerial Council and the insightful contributions of Mr Blagoj Bochvarski, Minister of Transport and Communications, and of the co-chair Ms Magda Kopczynska, Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport.
2. Welcome the new Growth Plan for the Western Balkans aiming to advance the accession process, particularly priority action 4 (four) referring to the "*Facilitation of Road Transport*", as well priority action one related to the border/common crossing points aiming to reduce the waiting times at the borders/common crossing points.
3. Welcome the Joint Declaration from the Budva Summit 2023, "*Taking Forward the Green Lanes*", and the initiative of Transport Community and CEFTA Secretariats on developing a comprehensive Action Plan (roadmap), outlining the next steps to further deliver on the EU- Western Balkans/CEFTA Green lanes.
4. Acknowledge the progress and stress the need for further improvement, as highlighted in the Action Plans and EU Acquis Progress Report 2023. Thank the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat for its support in implementing the agreed measures.
5. Underline our renewed commitment to the accelerated transposition and implementation of ANNEX I of the Transport Community Treaty and vow to redouble our efforts in this endeavour, while making full use of available EU support (inter alia TAIEX). Encourage the TCT Secretariat to focus its efforts on supporting this process in the upcoming period - among else by preparing new draft TCT action plans for the period 2024-2027.
6. Note the progress made by the region in aligning with TEN-T standards. Welcome and express appreciation for continuous support from the European Union through the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans. Pledge to boost efforts to guarantee the timely and coordinated execution of the TEN-T in line with the stipulated deadlines of the relevant Regulation.



7. Commend the advancements in revising the TEN-T Regulation, notably the creation of a European Transport Corridor crossing the Western Balkans region (*Western Balkans-Eastern Mediterranean* corridor), and the adoption by the Commission of the revised TEN-T in the Western Balkans.
8. Welcome the conclusions of the Social Forum (March 2023, Pristina) and undertake to advance the Social Aspects of the Acquis, as outlined in ANNEX I of the Transport Community Treaty.
9. In this regard, endorse the Action Plan for the implementation of the EU Acquis in the areas of Social Issues and Passenger Rights in Transport, recognising its importance as a monitoring and guidance instrument for the region delivering on its commitments in this field.
10. Welcome the successful imminent operationalisation of the Transport Observatory Data Information System (TODIS), marking a pivotal achievement under the Transport Community Treaty. Recognise the collaborative efforts of the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat and all pertinent regional stakeholders. Commit to supporting the continuous operation and future enhancements of the system, as well as coherence with the EU system TENtec.
11. Appreciate the active participation and dedication of the observing participants from Ukraine, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova within the Transport Community bodies. Welcome their aspirations towards full membership in the Transport Community. Additionally, welcome their pledge to formulate the five action plans and their interest in synchronising policies with other strategic documents of the Transport Community.
12. Welcome the official launch of the Safe and Sustainable Transport Program and anticipate the practical execution of projects. This program will aim to enhance safety at level crossings, modernise infrastructure, bolster capacity at selected border/common crossing points on the extended TEN-T Network in the Western Balkans, improve high-risk road sections, and promote sustainable and intelligent mobility solutions in the region.

Done in Skopje on 12 December 2023

For the Ministerial Council of the Transport Community

The President

H.E. Blagoj Bochvarski

Minister of Transport and Communications