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### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: EU-Western Balkan Transport Community - 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Steering  
Committee, Belgrade and online  
- Draft minutes and conclusions

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Delegations will find, in the annex, the draft minutes and conclusions from the 14th RSC meeting on 16 December 2021.



14<sup>th</sup> Regional Steering Committee meeting  
16 December 2021, Belgrade and online  
**Draft Minutes and Conclusions**

1. The 14<sup>th</sup> Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting was held on 16 December 2021, in a hybrid form (by physical participation and online).
2. All RSC members were present during the meeting as well as observers from the European Union member states.
3. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Regional Steering Committee, Mr Gjynejt Mustafa, and Co-Chair, Ms Mona Bjorklund.
4. Delegation of Serbia proposed to add a point of discussion to the proposed Agenda, under the AOB on increased waiting time for trucks at the border between Serbia and Croatia (Batrovci/Bajakovo border crossing point).

Agenda of the meeting with proposed amendment was adopted.

5.	<p><b>Work Plan and Budget for year 2022</b></p> <p><b>A) Endorsement of Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Annual Work Plan for year 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport Community Permanent Secretariat (TCT Secretariat) presented Annual Work Program for year 2022. The Annual Work Program for 2022 was already presented at the Regional Steering Committee meeting on 21 October 2021 and at the Budget Committee meeting on 16 November 2021. The document presents TCT Secretariat's major activities for 2022, with a particular focus on implementation. Annual Work Program also presents indicative timetables for all major events to be conducted in 2022. The program is supported by the Budget proposal for 2022.</li> <li>• European Commission endorsed the Annual Work Plan, and welcomed the periodical reporting on progress on the implementation of the TCT action plans.</li> <li>• Delegation of North Macedonia invited TCT Secretariat to organise training on Road Transport Inspection for North Macedonia, Albania, and Kosovo* and expressed its interest to host the event in Skopje. Delegation of North Macedonia thanked TCT Secretariat for co-organising the Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory meeting in Skopje on 6-7 December 2021.</li> <li>• Delegation from Kosovo requested that the RSC meeting is organised back-to-back with Ministerial Council meeting in March 2022. Due to the documents that have to be prepared for the Ministerial Council, it was agreed to organise next RSC meeting as initially scheduled for 22 February 2022, and, if needed, to add ad-hoc RSC meeting in conjunction with the Ministerial Council.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: RSC endorsed the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Annual Work Program for year 2022. It was agreed that the TCT Secretariat will report after six months on the implementation of the Annual Work Program.</b></p>
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<sup>1</sup> \*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

	<p><b>B) Adoption of Proposal for the Transport Community's Budget for the year 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TCT Secretariat presented draft Budget for year 2022. TCT Secretariat indicated that there is a small linguistic change, which should be corrected in the final version.</li> <li>• RSC Chair and delegation from North Macedonia asked for clarification of the Article 3 of the Draft Budget decision about appropriations, which have not been committed at the end of year which are envisaged to be cancelled and paid back to the Parties.</li> <li>• EC clarified that the Article 3 is part of the proposed amendments to the Financial rules and that once the amending procedure is completed it would be reflected in the next decisions on budget.</li> <li>• European Commission supported the adoption of presented draft Budget for 2022.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: RSC adopted Transport Community's Budget for the year 2022, with linguistic change indicated by the TCT Secretariat.</b></p>
6.	<p><b>Information on Transport Community Permanent Secretariat's Guidelines for Transportation of Dangerous goods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TCT Secretariat presented Guidelines for Transportation of Dangerous goods. The Guidelines recommend that each regional partner establishes cooperation practices between the relevant authorities, the internal transport of dangerous goods (TDG) implementation group chaired by the TDG Committee members for each regional partner. This should enhance cooperation between all relevant authorities with competences in this field. The Guidelines also highlight the main actions to be achieved in the next period until 2025.</li> <li>• The European Commission highly appreciated development of presented Guidelines which would help the consistent implementation of EU acquis in transport of dangerous goods. The European Commission invited all Regional Partners to continue taking forward such cooperation and to apply the Guidelines.</li> <li>• Delegation of Montenegro highlighted efforts of all relevant stakeholders and competent authorities in Montenegro in preparation of the Guidelines. It expressed the need for TCT Secretariat's support with special focus on translation of documents.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: RSC welcomed presented Guidelines for transportation of Dangerous goods.</b></p>
7.	<p><b>Information regarding the Ministerial Council of Transport Community, 10 March 2022 (date tbc)</b></p> <p><b>A) Draft Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TCT Secretariat presented draft agenda of the Ministerial Council of Transport Community, envisaged to be held on 10 March 2022 in Pristina.</li> <li>• European Commission supported the agenda points foreseen for the Ministerial Council..</li> <li>• TCT Secretariat will share the first draft of Five-year rolling work plan for the development of the indicative TEN-T extension of the comprehensive and core networks to the Western Balkans and the identification of priority projects of regional interest in January 2022.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: RSC agreed with the Draft Agenda and points for discussion.</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Information regarding European Court of Justice Rulings with relevance to the Contracting Parties of the Transport Community Treaty – update by the European Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Commission presented Rulings with relevance to the Contracting Parties of the Transport Community Treaty.</li> </ul>

AOB

9.	<p><b>Report on the outcomes of the 3rd Budget Committee that took place on 16 November 2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Cristina Garcia Cuadra, European Commission, presented main points of discussion and outcomes of the 3rd Budget Committee meeting that took place on 16 November 2021. One of the follow up actions from the Budget Committee is the need to revise the Financial rules in order to contribute to better management, focusing on carry overs from previous year, carry over of surplus in form of budgetary contribution to next year, and development of procurement rules for values below the Directive threshold.</li> </ul>
10.	<p><b>Information from TCT Secretariat regarding the process of refunding participation cost of regional partners at TCT organised events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TCT Secretariat highlighted that expenditure reimbursement after the event participation remains a primary option, as the advanced prepayment is creating certain difficulties in timely collection of necessary documentation and processing the payments.</li> </ul>
11.	<p><b>Information from the European Commission on state of play regarding the revision of the Trans European Transport Network Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 (TEN-T Regulation) following written inputs from the Regional Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TCT Secretariat informed RSC about the process of revision of the Trans European Transport Network Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 (TEN-T Regulation). In accordance with Commission's request, all Regional Partners delivered data on the current network, what is already completed and what is in progress, as well as their proposals for the changes of the Network. TCT Secretariat underlined that 2022 will be devoted to concrete actions when it comes to TEN-T Revision in Western Balkans.</li> <li>European Commission thanked on the inputs from the Regional Partners and informed on state of play regarding the revision of the Trans European Transport Network Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 (TEN-T Regulation).</li> <li>Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina proposed establishing Ad-hoc working group of all Regional Partners in order to streamline the discussion on the TEN-T extension and do the preparatory work for the Ministerial Council meeting in March. The suggestion was supported by Delegations of Albania, Kosovo, and Montenegro.</li> <li>Delegation of Albania expressed concern regarding omission of Adriatic Ionian corridor in the new proposal of EC. Concern was shared by delegation of Montenegro.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: TCT Secretariat shall undertake activities to initiate informal ad-hoc group, in cooperation with representatives of Regional Partners and in consultation with European Commission .</b></p>
12.	<p><b>Information on designation of the Financial Auditor for 2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TCT Secretariat presented information on selection of independent external auditor for the financial statements of 2021 and 2022. According to the Financial rules and auditing procedures applicable to the Transport Community, in particular Article 62, the designation of the external auditor is at the discretion of the Regional Steering Committee. TCT Secretariat has conducted a procurement procedure in October 2021 based on which it is proposing Crowe RS Advisory d.o.o. as independent external auditor.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RSC Chair asked for the details of the procurement procedure and criteria for the award of contract.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: TCT Secretariat will share the tender specifications of the procurement with RSC Members and at the same time start written procedure for designation of external auditor to carry out the annual audit of the Transport Community's financial statements for 2021 and 2022. All agreed that the deadline for expected feedback in the written procedure shall be 5 working days.</b></p>
13.	<p><b>European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) workshop announcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RSC was informed that on the 9 February 2022, CINEA in cooperation with TCT Secretariat will organise a specialised seminar, presenting the possibilities for regional partners to participate in calls for proposals and projects within the Connecting Europe Facility Transport (CEF Transport) in the period 2021 – 2027. The seminar will be organised online and the representatives of CINEA will present the specificities of the CEF call, priorities, eligible actions, budget limitations, deadlines, templates, application process etc.</li> </ul>
14.	<p><b>Information regarding relocation of Headquarters of Transport Community Permanent Secretariat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TCT Secretariat informed RSC that after one year of temporary relocation, due to refurbishment of Beogradjanka building, TCT Permanent Secretariat is scheduled to return to its original premises according to Annex to the Headquarters agreement. The physical relocation of the assets of the Secretariat, shall take place in the last days of December 2021 and first days of January 2022. As of January 2022, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat shall be in <b>Beogradjanka building on Masarikova street no. 5, (8 and 9 floor), Belgrade</b>. Land telephone lines will not be working for the period of relocation, however the TCT Permanent Secretariat will be available on emails as well as mobile phones.</li> </ul>
15.	<p><b>Point raised by delegation of Serbia: Increased waiting time for trucks at the border between Serbia and Croatia (Batrovci/Bajakovo border crossing point)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegation of Serbia informed participants that commercial traffic on BCP Batrovci/Bajakovo between Croatia and Serbia is reported to be unusually slow with waiting times exceeding 20h in the last few days. Delegation from Serbia urged the European Commission to intervene and to contact Green Lanes contact point from Croatia to assist in this regard. European Commission invited delegation of Serbia to forward all the available information.</li> <li>Problem of waiting times at the border crossing points with Croatia was also highlighted by delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion: Delegation from Serbia to share relevant information regarding the current situation with the European Commission.</b></p>

Chair of the Regional Steering Committee  
Mr Gjynejt Mustafa

Co - Chair of the Regional Steering Committee  
Ms Mona Bjorklund