

# IPA SUMMIT 2019

## European Railway Safety Culture Declaration

### Changing the Connectivity Governance in Western Balkans - THE ROLE OF TRANSPORT COMMUNITY

BELGRADE, November 13<sup>th</sup>

Dejan Lasica

## Who we are?

- ❑ The Transport Community is an International Organisation established by the Treaty establishing the Transport Community that was signed on 9 October 2017.
- ❑ TCT comprises the following Parties: the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of North Macedonia, Kosovo\*, Montenegro and Serbia.

## TCT structure

- Ministerial Council
- Regional Steering Committee
- The Permanent Secretariat
- Technical Committees

## The Primary aim

- ❑ Creation of a Transport Community in the field of road, rail, inland waterway and maritime transport as well as the development of the transport network between the European Union and the South East European Parties (SEE).
- ❑ The Transport Community shall be based on the progressive integration of transport markets of the South East European Parties into the European Union transport market on the basis of the relevant acquis, including in the areas of technical standards, interoperability, safety, security, traffic management, social policy, public procurement and environment, for all modes of transport excluding air transport.

## The Transport Community : a game changer for Western Balkans

### *Moving from transport cooperation to transport integration*

- Promoting transport policies aligned with the EU ones;
- Supporting the transposition and implementation of EU's transport and transport related legislation in Western Balkans.
- Sharing **the same goals – but also the same values.**
- Opening (under conditions) the EU transport market to SEE parties, before their accession = fostering the accession process.
- In other words, the Transport Community is a **game changer** for the region to fill the transport gap between Western Balkans and EU and prepare WB to the accession.

# Top priority for TCT: Developing a Regional Rail Strategy

*No fatality in the decline of rail transport in WB!*

- Sharp decline in both passenger and freight;
- Poor quality standards (low speed – low service levels...);
- Fragmentation of the markets (small networks – many borders!),  
market opening still incomplete : no real competition!
- Lack of cooperation between railways.
- Administrative capacity missing to implement EU  
standards/legislation;
- Against such background what TCT can do?

# Technical Committee on Railways

- 1<sup>st</sup> Technical Committee on Railway held in Brussels on 23/05/2019
- 1<sup>st</sup> set of actions on developing regional rail strategy adopted by the RSC in Belgrade on 19/06/2019
- TC Secretariat prepared Rail fiche what was presented on High level meeting in Poznan on July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Poznan Summit conclusions - further work on implementation of EU rail legislation and adoption of Rail Action plan till the end of 2019
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Committee on Railway held in Belgrade on 21/09/2019
- Progress Report on implementation
- Identification of problems in implementation
- Final Rail action Plan should be adopt on the next RSC
- Next Technical Committee will be on 21-22. November in Belgrade.

# Draft Rail action plan - content

- Rail market opening
- Passenger rights
- Interoperability
- Governance
- Border crossings agreements
- Modernization of rail infrastructure

## Rail market opening

- Biggest challenge for the WB parties
- Institutional framework is still under developing
- Four WB parties opened the market for the local RUs
- Market share – 2%-13%
- Second phase – rail market opening on regional level
- Finishing of the restructuring of national rail companies

## Regional Rail Strategy: tools in place

- Rail Technical Committee : gather WB partners + MS +EU institutions + business + IFIs + ...?
- Already met 2 times since May.
- Supported by other players (WB: rail reform)
- “CONNECTA”
- Administrative Arrangement signed with European Rail Agency on 13 September : expand knowledge in the region / support the administrations / railways undertakings to align with EU standards.
- Transport Facilitation (removal obstacles at borders) and road safety (level crossing).



Indicative Extension to Neighbouring Countries  
Comprehensive Network: Railways, ports and rail-road terminals (RRT)  
Core Network: Railways (freight), ports and rail-road terminals (RRT)  
**Western Balkans Region**

Comprehensive  
– 3800 km

Core Network –  
2600 km



Comprehensive		Core		Comprehensive		Core	
Conventional rail / Completed	Conventional rail / To be upgraded	Conventional rail / Planned	Conventional rail / Completed	To be upgraded to high speed rail	High speed rail / Planned	Ports	RRT

## What about the infrastructure?

- Suffers from lack of investments and poor maintenance.
- Investments : EU Funding 85% roads 15% rail in EU MS 85% rail 15% road.
- However, what should come first? Infrastructure or Reforms and alignment on EU?
- Aligned with TEN-T priorities and approach;
- Priority – upgrading the existing network in view to make it « operable » rather than promoting new costly (but empty?) infrastructure.



## Maintenance

- Lack of the maintenance in last 3 decades
- Average speed and investments, there is no correlation
- “CONNECTA” project – main outcomes, three budget scenarios
- RIAMS – should be established
- 5 year maintenance plan
- Support from the Ministries of finance

# Interoperability and ITS deployment

- Transposition and implementation Interoperable directives
- ERTMS
- Establishing an electronic register of rail vehicles.
- Exchange data collection process (BCPs)
- Establishing a network of the IMs within a region
- Permanent consultation and exchange data

## Border crossings operation

- Technical Committee for the border crossings facilitation
- Infrastructure requirements (building, tracks etc)
- One stop shop (bilateral BCAs)
- ITS solution
- Expected effects – 40% decreasing waiting time in freight and 50% in passenger transport
- Support by customs, border polices and inspections are needed

