



Connectivity Initiatives in Western Balkans

**19th WBIF SC
Luxembourg, 6 December 2018**

What are our priorities to improve connectivity in Western Balkans?

- *Mix of Infrastructure development and Transport reforms.*
- *Now : financing focus on large scale projects.*
- *Tomorrow : more emphasis on horizontal measures / small scale – high value projects and actions :*
- **Road Safety**
- **Border Crossing improvement**
- **Regional rail strategy**

1. ROAD SAFETY

- **Top priority** in the Connectivity reform agenda.
*Identified as a **flagship initiative** in Enlargement Strategy*
- Endorsed as a **policy priority within the Transport Community** (declaration on Road Safety endorsed by all ministers in Ljubjana in April 2018).
- **Main objective halving** number of **fatalities** in WB by 2030.
 - Action(s) on road safety management and infrastructure a
 - Financial support from **WBIF** to implement infrastructure projects.

Removing "road safety black spots".

- *Identification of sections of road with "high level of fatalities" (CONNECTA TA).*
- *Selection of cross-border sections of the TEN-T network (core + comprehensive) to test the approach.*
- *Defining the projects / actions to carry out to improve the quality of the infrastructure.*
- *Earmarking 10-15 M€ x year from WBIF to carry out this action.*
- *First "Pilot" proposal to test the concept : ready by mid-February to be submitted to WB6 in Pozan.*

2. BORDER CROSSING

- *Cost for WB : up **250 M€ x year.***
- *Border crossing agreements : **almost no progress since 2015** : time has come to deliver!*
- *Border crossing declaration endorsed in Ljubjana in April, which focus on :*
 - *improved infrastructure;*
 - *improved coordination mechanisms;*
 - *development of paperless proceedings;*
 - *improved cooperation between services.*
- *Financial support from WBIF to implement infrastructure projects / equipment.*

- *Identification of 32 Border crossing within WB and with EU MS (CONNECTA TA).*
- *Assessment of infrastructure / administrative constraints.*
- *Assessment of time saving versus cost.*
- *Defining the projects / actions to carry out to respond to infrastructure / equipment needs.*
- *Earmarking 5-10 M€ x year from WBIF to carry out this action.*
- *First "Pilot" proposals to test the concept :
Corridor Vc – Corridor VIII (road) – Corridor X (rail)*

3. Rail Strategy : national responses do not work : we need a regional approach.

- *Help to **maximise** the investments in rail infrastructure;*
- *Need to target the **real priorities with sustainable projects**;*
- *Setting **coordination mechanisms** and agreeing on a **common approach**.*
- *National Rail markets in WB : too narrow – **seeking for a regional rail market**.*
- *Providing **legal certainty** to rail operators / users : **4th railway package**!*
- ***Developing multimodality**.*
- *TCT secretariat : **2 full time rail experts**.*

Transport Community : the game changer.

- ❖ *Signed on 9 October 2017 – ratified by all WB partners*
- ❖ *Location of the secretariat : Belgrade (consensus)*
- ❖ *Head-Quarters agreement : initialled at the WB6 summit in London on 9 July 2018.*

What's next ? Several pending issues :

- ❖ *Appointment of Director/Deputy -> addressed in the Treaty.*
- ❖ *Appointment of staff;*
- ❖ *Termination of SEETO's mandate : 31/12/2018*
- ❖ *Interim solution to ensure continuity JAN-MAY 2019.*