

REIF - REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Online meeting

Minutes

28 September 2021



Introduction

Intermodal Transport Cluster organised the second online Regional Advisory Board meeting for Croatia. This meeting was an opportunity for the advisory board to review the topics from the previous meeting and continue discussing them in greater detail, mainly focusing on the “New Rail Infrastructure/services” Roadmap. Based on the previously presented Draft Roadmap, suggestions for inclusions for the Final Roadmap were made during the meeting.

Attendees list

Name	Organisation
Tomislav Budić	Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure
Nikola Herceg	Luka Ploče d.d.
Jasminka Vrdoljak	Luka Ploče d.d.
Valentina Šutalo	Faculty of Maritime Studies - University of Rijeka
Lari Lenhard	Intermodal Transport Cluster
Martina Antunović	Intermodal Transport Cluster



Agenda

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28.09.2021

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10:00 - 10:10	Introduction and welcome	KIP
10:10 - 10:50	Roundtable discussion about the “New Rail Infrastructure/services for 2030” Roadmap	All participants
10:50 - 11:00	Conclusion of the meeting	KIP

Minutes of the meeting

Ms. Antunović welcomed all participants to the 2nd advisory board meeting and invited all the participants to join the REIF Transnational Policy Conference on the 19th of October, mentioning that she will send the official invite once it is available. She then asked the participants if they have anyone who would be interested in participating as a speaker at the panel discussion - REIF Regions report about challenges/potentials for regional rail freight transport.

Ms. Antunović asked the participants if they had a chance to take a look at the Roadmap that was sent to them and to think about the topics mentioned in the previous Advisory board meeting. Mr. Herceg started by stating the issues that they are facing in the Port of Ploče and the nearby area, including the fact that parts of the railway tracks in their area requires modernisation and/or reconstruction, as well as the fact that their container terminal is not connected by rail at all. They are currently looking for ways to solve their existing issues. One of their major issues is that they are not a part of TEN-T corridors. Ms. Antunović suggested perhaps participating in smaller projects, such as pilot project, creation of documentation, optimisation and similar activities. Mr. Herceg mentioned an interest in the currently published call for CEF infrastructure project but is unsure if railway projects outside the Core and Comprehensive TEN-T networks are being accepted. Ms. Vrdoljak said that their target is to connect their railway with Budapest through Bosnia and Herzegovina and through the eastern continental parts of Croatia such as Osijek. Ms. Antunović suggested that connecting with Budapest is a step in the right direction as Budapest is part of the Core network. Mr. Budić that cross-border cooperation with authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina through programs such as Interreg could also bring benefits to this issue, however he suggested further investigation on the topic due to Bosnia and Herzegovina not being in the EU. Mr. Herceg confirmed that Interreg CBC Croatia-BIH-Montenegro already exists. Ms. Antunović also mentioned the Interreg ADRION programme which included BIH, Serbia and Montenegro as IPA country participants.

Mr. Budić brought up that he had looked at the interactive TEN-T map, and has shared his screen to present it to all the participants. He noted that a large percentage of the railways in Croatia and neighboring countries to some extent that the railway infrastructure isn't compatible with international standards either not being electrified or not being able to carry enough of a load. He also mentioned that looking towards the east, the railway leads all the way to Vinkovci but is not connected to Vukovar which would enable a better connection with inland waterways. He also mentioned that a part of the network from Trieste, across Koper to Rijeka is also displayed as not up-to-standard as it's max axle load is below standard. He mentioned the railway line Dugo Selo - Novska from the Roadmap stating that a large portion of it is fine regarding axle load, but near the end of the line there are small portions of the line which are also not up to standard. His opinion is that creating rail connections to Vukovar and then using inland waterways to Budapest would make a lot of sense as an intermodal solution to

the issues faced with rail infrastructure in both countries. Ms. Vrdoljak commented that cooperation with the port of Vukovar would be a good idea and that it could benefit both sides. Ms. Antunović mentioned that their suggestions for the port of Ploče would be included into the Final Roadmap.

The participants agreed that the three included actions in the Roadmap are of huge importance to improve the current rail infrastructure situation in Croatia, but have also concluded that a larger number of smaller infrastructure projects would help their regions and would be required for the complete modernisation of railways in Croatia. Ms. Antunović thanked all the participants for joining, and thanked them for emphasizing the importance of connections between railways and inland waterways and that it would be included in the final Roadmap.



Images from the event

