

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**between**

**the Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology  
of the Republic of Austria,**

**the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and  
Communications  
of the Republic of Bulgaria**

**the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure  
of the Republic of Croatia**

**the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure  
of the Republic of Serbia  
and**

**the Ministry of Infrastructure  
of the Republic of Slovenia**

### **ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE ALPINE-WESTERN BALKAN RAIL FREIGHT CORRIDOR**

The

Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology of the Republic of Austria,  
Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of Sea, Transport and  
Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Construction, Transport and  
Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia and Ministry of Transport, Information  
Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria

hereinafter referred to as „the Sides“,

**Recognising** the existing efforts on business cooperation of the rail sector in the region for better rail services, and in particular, to promote closer cooperation and attractive services to customers;

**Stressing** the importance of close cooperation in the rail sector for improved connectivity and economic growth,

**Recognising** the importance of modern rail freight to Europe's socio-economic development and to the environment;

**Considering** the high potential of the rail freight corridor for connecting Central Europe with Asia and consequently for its benefits for global transport;

**Sharing** the ambition to continue to work together to develop a network of rail freight corridors, especially through management of the corridors and their interconnections, but also through improvement of interoperability, the removal of bottlenecks, the harmonisation of operational rules and capacity management;

**Desiring** to increase the involvement of the business community in developing the rail freight corridors;

**Considering** that the present Memorandum of Understanding is without prejudice to the competence of the Sides regarding planning and funding of the rail infrastructure on their territory;

**Encouraging** the regulatory bodies and national safety authorities to improve their cooperation along the rail freight corridor;

**Promoting** the modal shift from road to rail by facilitating the interconnectivity of the rail freight transport across the borders and providing alternative routes to ensure smooth traffic flow even under unexpected circumstances;

Consider the following general objectives:

The Sides recognise the development of the European rail freight network as one of the objectives of the European transport policy. For that, the development of the trans-European corridors for competitive rail freight transport may be a tool to promote an

attractive and efficient railway system with positive effects on modal shift. The mentioned corridors with their organisational settings and defined processes will present an impetus to further development of the existing networks as well as foster the creation of new services in the logistic chain from terminal to terminal or from origin to destination.

The establishment and organisational settings with particular responsibilities are defined by the Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 concerning a European rail network for competitive freight (hereinafter referred to as “the Regulation”). The Regulation lays down rules and responsibilities of the state authorities concerned as well as of the related rail infrastructure managers and/or allocation bodies in cooperation with stakeholders (terminals, undertakings etc.). It aims to foster modern, competitive rail services achieved through close cooperation, of the rail infrastructure managers, taking into account consultations with users/customers.

Following the Letter of Intent signed by the responsible Ministries in November 2017 and positive opinion of the Committee pursuant to Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 (SERAC) in February 2018, the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) No 2018/500 of 22 March 2018 on the compliance of the proposal to establish the Alpine – Western Balkan rail freight corridor with Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 (hereinafter referred to as “the Decision”) presents the legal basis to establish the Alpine – Western Balkan Rail Freight Corridor – RFC 10.

Bearing in mind the legal framework of the “Regulation” with the initial nine Rail Freight Corridors and the “Decision”, the Alpine – Western Balkan Corridor (hereinafter referred to as “RFC 10”) aims to be operational within two years after the adoption of the “Decision”.

With the understanding that the Regulation and Decision will be implemented by setting in place the governance structure, the Sides will set up an Executive Board, composed of representatives of the Sides to this Memorandum of Understanding.

With regards to the above and in view of Article 8(1) of the Regulation, the Sides establish hereby the Executive Board of the Alpine – Western Balkan Rail Freight

Memorandum of Understanding - Executive Board  
of the Alpine-Western Balkan Rail Freight Corridor

Corridor which will be responsible for defining the general objectives of the rail freight corridor, supervising and taking measures as foreseen in Article 8(1) of the Regulation.

The Executive Board (ExBo) shall perform its activity according to Internal Rules of Procedure that shall be elaborated and adopted by the ExBo.

For the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology of the Republic of  
Austria

Norbert Hofer

Minister of Transportation, Innovation and Technology of the Republic of Austria



Vienna, 16.5.2018

For the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic  
of Bulgaria



Ivaylo Moskovski

Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of  
Bulgaria

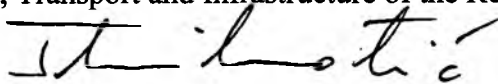
Sofia, 11 July 2018

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For the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia

Oleg Butković

Minister of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia



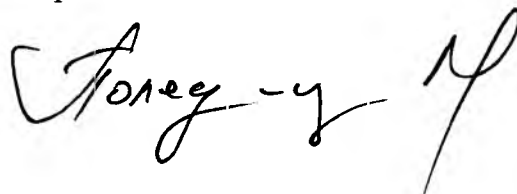
Ljubljana, 25 April 2018

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For the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia

Prof. Zorana Z. Mihajlović, PhD

Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia and Minister of Construction,  
Transport and Infrastructure



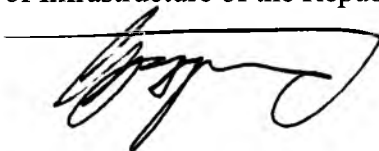
Ljubljana, 25 April 2018

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For the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Slovenia

Peter Gašperšič, PhD

Minister of Infrastructure of the Republic of Slovenia



Ljubljana, 25 April 2018