**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

 **Alpine-Western Balkan Rail Freight Corridor**

**TAG RAG kick-off meeting**

**Venue: HŽ INFRASTRUKTURA Headquarters, 10000 Zagreb, Mihanovićeva 12**

**Date: 04 April 2019 9.30-15.15**

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| **Welcoming TAG/RAG participants and opening of the meeting**The meeting was opened by Mr. Matjaž Kranjc, President of the Management Board of Alpine-Western Balkan rail freight corridor who greeted the participants and thanked the host HŽ-INFRASTRUKTURA d.o.o. for organizing the meeting.  | Matjaž Kranjc, SŽ-IPresident of the AWB RFC Management Board |
| **Presentation of Alpine-Western Balkan Rail Freight Corridor & Discussion**Mr. Kranjc gave a presentation of AWB RFC corridor including its background, establishing process and future potential. | Matjaž Kranjc, SŽ-IPresident of the AWB RFC Management Board |
| **Presentation of Transport Market Study (I Part)**Ms. Helga Steinberger, Head of the Coordination Group of AWB RFC, greeted the participants and gave a short introduction for the presentation of Transport Market Study which is currently being prepared for AWB RFC by Prometni Institut iz Ljubljane (Institute of Traffic and Transport from Ljubljana). Representatives of Prometni Institut, Mr. Aleksandar Dobrijević and Mr. Klemen Ponikvar, gave a presentation of the current draft version of Transport Market Study. | Prometni Institut Ljubljana |

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| **Presentation of Transport Market Study (II Part) & Discussion**Mr. Ponikvar and Ms. Steinberger invited the participants to give their feedback on the current version of TMS. Ms. Steinberger informed the participants that their feedback is important and that all the RUs and Terminals that were invited to the RAG/TAG meeting will be provided with the copy of the TMS presentation and with the draft TMS for their feedback. She invited the participants to express their opinions on the issues that could be improved along the corridor. The participants pointed out the issues concerning the migrant crisis, train delays at border-crossings and maximum train lengths. | Prometni Institut LjubljanaHelga Steinberger, ÖBB-I |
| In the second part of the meeting Ms. Steinberger presented the purpose of TAG/RAG groups. She explained that, according to the provisions of the (EU) Regulation No 913/2010 concerning a European rail network for competitive freight, each rail freight corridor is to set up its advisory group made of managers and owners of the terminals of the freight corridor (TAG) and advisory group made up of railway undertakings interested in the use of the freight corridor (RAG). Their purpose is to build a consultancy platform between infrastructure managers responsible for corridor establishment and operation and the representatives of railways undertakings and terminals. Participation is voluntary. These Advisory Groups may issue an opinion on any proposal by the Management Board which has direct consequences for the operation of terminals or of railway undertakings. Advisory Groups may also issue their own opinions and suggestions. She explained that both groups should select their spokespersons who will be the point of contact with the AWB RFC Management Board. The meeting was then split into two sessions. The RAG session was chaired by Ms. Biserka Keller from HŽ-INFRASTRUKTURA. The TAG session was chaired by Ms. Ivana Zanki from HŽ-INFRASTRUKTURA. |  Helga Steinberger, ÖBB-I |

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| **Railway Undertakings Advisory Group session** | Biserka Keller, HŽI |
| **Terminals Advisory Group session** |  Ivana Zanki, HŽI |
| **Short presentation of findings reached during the group sessions** Upon the completion of RAG/TAG separate sessions the chairpersons presented the session outcomes. Ms. Keller informed the participants that RAG selected its spokesperson, Mr. Damjan Pangerc from Slovenske železnice. Mr. Pangerc informed the participants of the conclusions from the first RAG session: * One should be aware that on AWB RFC corridor there is also a non-EU member, Serbia, and that the rules on exchange of trains are different with a non-EU member. RAG members ask of the AWB RFC Management Board to put in maximum efforts towards the respective Ministries to prepare new agreements regulating this field, given that the current agreements are rather obsolete. This should apply to the border crossings between Croatia and Serbia and between Serbia and Bulgaria;
* RAG members want to receive the TMS draft and the TMS presentation;
* RAG members have two suggestions for the bottleneck between Dugo Selo and Novska: either to extend the corridor or to include Zagreb-Sisak-Novska to this corridor.

Ms. Ivana Zanki informed the participants of the TAG session outcome:* TAG group did not select its spokesman due to the insufficient number of participants in the TAG group on this meeting. TAG will select its spokesperson subsequently, in a written procedure;
* The access to information on the working hours of IMs and terminals along the corridor should be easier;
* Track closures should be published on IM websites 30-40 days in advance.
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| **Closing the meeting**Ms. Steinberger informed the participants that the corridor website will go online in the next 7 days. She thanked all the participants and the hosts from HŽ-INFRASTRUKTURA and closed the meeting.  | Helga Steinberger, ÖBB-I |