

Expert Panel:

“An Integrated Concept of Connectivity for the CEI Region”

Central European Initiative (CEI)

in cooperation with the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat

Hotel Marivaux

(Jacques Tati I & II – Meeting Room)

Brussels, Bd Adolphe Max 98

8 December 2022

Aims of the Panel: *The aim of the event is to launch a discussion on enhancing connectivity from a broader perspective, particularly focusing on transport, including transit of goods, as an important factor for the overall economic development of the region, which can help unlock the potential of interlinked production networks and value chains.*

Draft agenda (14.00-16.00)

14.00-14.30 Welcoming coffee

14.30-14.45 Opening remarks

- **Mr. Matej Zakonjšek**, Director, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat
- **Mr. Emir Djikic**, Director, CEFTA Secretariat (TBC)
- **Mr. Stanislav Todorov**, CEI National Coordinator and Chairman of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Bulgaria

14.45-14.55 **Session 1 - State of connectivity in the CEI region/Western Balkans**

Session moderated by Mr. Stanislav Todorov, CEI National Coordinator and Chairman of the CEI Committee of National Coordinators, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Bulgaria

Speakers:

- **Ms. Ivanka Georgieva**, Head of International, Bilateral and Regional Cooperation Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Republic of Bulgaria
- **Mr. Paolo Dileo**, Project Manager, CEI-Executive Secretariat

14.55-15.25 **Session 2 - Enhancing cross-border soft connectivity**

Session moderated by Mr. Albert Kolgeci, Head of Division in charge of Transposition and Implementation of the EU Acquis, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat

Speakers:

- *“Sustainable and efficient transport and logistics: A strategic approach to improved soft connectivity as prerequisite for attracting investments and enhanced trade”* – **Mr. Marko Mandić**, Head of Centre for the Western Balkans Chamber Investment Forum, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia
 - *“Update on trade and transport facilitation initiatives by the World Bank Group in the Western Balkans”*, **Ms. Violane Konar-Leacy**, Operations Officer, Trade Facilitation, Creating Markets Advisory Europe, World Bank/IFC
 - *“Soft measures implemented in the Port of Bar: the role of digitalization”*, **Mr. Rade Stanišić**, Head of International Project Management Unit, Port of Bar, Montenegro
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15.25-15.45 Session 3 - Perspectives for removing transport and trade barriers in the CEI region with focus on Western Balkans and between Western Balkans and EU

Session moderated by Mr. Albert Kolgeci, Head of Division in charge of Transposition and Implementation of the EU Acquis, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat

Speakers:

- **Mr. Vasil Lyaskov**, Senior Global financial Analysis expert, PIMK Rail Holding JSK - Managing Director and CFO, GBT Rail GmbH, Republic of Bulgaria
- **Ms. Kristina Čosić**, Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mr. Branko Todorović**, Director Customs Clearance Department, MILSPED Group, Republic of Serbia

15.45-15.55 Discussion / Q&A

15.55-16.00 Closure of the event – Possible follow-up activities in 2023

19.00 Dinner – upon invitation (venue: Le Rossini, Bd Adolphe Max 7)