

# Advancing Connectivity, Interoperability, and Resilience of the Danube Region Railway Network

*Joint EUSDR PA1b coordinators<sup>1</sup> and Transport Community event  
under the auspices of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency of the EUSDR*

Wednesday and Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Sarajevo / Bosnia & Herzegovina

Venue: **Swissôtel Sarajevo** (<https://www.swissotel.com/hotels/sarajevo/>), Vrbanja 1, Sarajevo

## Draft A G E N D A

Workshop Objectives:

1. Highlight the Danube region's railway network's importance as a backbone for regional trade and mobility
2. Address connectivity and interoperability gaps to enhance cross-border rail operations
3. Explore solutions to adapt railway infrastructure to resilience challenges
4. Foster regional cooperation and investment strategies to create a future-ready railway system.

Ver.: 17-4-2025

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### Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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18.30 – 21.00 **Networking Dinner** (sponsored by BiH Presidency)

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### Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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8.30 – 9.00 **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

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09:00 – 9:40 **Opening Session**

*Moderator:*

- *Mr. Midhat Džemić, Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency of the EUSDR / Directorate for European Integration of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- Welcome remarks
  - *Mr. Beno Fekonja, PA1b PAC, Ministry of infrastructure, Slovenia & Mr. Aleksandar Banjac, PA1b PAC, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Serbia*
  - *Mr. Robert Lichtner, Coordinator, Danube Strategy Point*
- Introductory speech by host country representative
  - *Mr. Edin Forto, Minister of Communications and Transport, Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- Keynote address: "The Role of Railways in Regional Connectivity and Sustainable Development"
  - *Mr. Matej Zakonjšek, Director, the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat*
- Keynote address: "Challenges in implementing the newly established TEN-T corridor"
  - *Mr. Marian-Jean Marinescu, EU Coordinator, The Western Balkans - Eastern Mediterranean (WBEM) European Transport Corridor*

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09:40 – 11.15 **Session 1: Tackling Connectivity and Interoperability for enhanced Cross Border rail activity in the Danube Region**

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Slovenia and Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia

6 x 15 min

*Objective: Identify and address gaps in cross-border rail connectivity. Showcase technological and institutional solutions for overcoming interoperability challenges.*

Speakers:

- Overview of railway networks in the macro-region and Infrastructure gaps on major corridors  
- [Mr. Franc Žepič, Ministry of Infrastructure, Slovenia](#)
- Compliance with TEN-T requirements, the current state of play  
- [Mr. Dejan Lasica, Transport Community Treaty Permanent Secretariat](#)
- Border Crossings as Bottlenecks and International Capacity allocation with Corridor's One-Stop-Shop solutions  
- [Mr. Tihomir Španič in Mr. Dino Džafro, PMO - Project manager office Alpine Western Balkan Railway Freight Corridor, Croatia](#)
- Implementing ERTMS standards in the Danube region  
- [Mr. Marko Vajdić, Branch Office Manager at DB Engineering & Consulting GmbH, Croatia](#)
- Digitalizing rail operations for seamless connectivity  
- [Speaker \(tbd\)](#)

Format: Presentations followed by Q&A.

11.15 – 11.30 *Coffee Break & Family photo*

## 11:30 – 12:30 **Session 2: Prioritizing Investments for Regional Rail Connectivity and Identifying Connectivity Priorities**

*Objective: Address funding challenges and opportunities for infrastructure projects, and measures for enhancing rail connectivity in the region. Gather participants' input on priority projects*

3 x 15 min  
+

Panel discussion

Speakers:

- Strategic prioritization of key corridors and rail links  
- [Mr. Dejan Lasica, Transport Community Treaty Permanent Secretariat](#)
- EU funding opportunities, including the role of the pre-accession assistance and CEF  
- [Mr. Zsolt Tószegi, Programme Manager, European Commission, Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood \(DG ENEST\) \(tbc\)](#)
- WBIF for funding TEN-T priorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina  
- [Ms Ms Sabina Dizdarević, Head of Unit, Directorate for European Integration, NIPAC Office Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

Format: Presentations followed by discussion with participants.

12:30 – 14:00 *Networking Lunch*

## 14:00 – 15:30 **Session 3: Climate Impacts on Rail Infrastructure and Innovative Solutions for Resilient Railways**

*Objective: Discuss recent climate events and their impact on railway infrastructure. Explore innovative technologies, policies, and practices for building resilient railway infrastructure.*

5 x 15 min  
+  
Q&A

Speakers:

- Climate-related rail disruptions: Floods and landslides in Jablanica  
- [Mr. Anel Topalović, Executive director for development and investments of FBiH railways,](#)
- Identifying vulnerable sections of the rail network  
- [Mr. Nedim Begović, Transport Community Treaty Permanent Secretariat](#)
- Planning and building resilient railway infrastructure (case: Divača-Koper second track)  
- [Mr. Marko Brezigar, 2 TDK Ltd., Slovenia](#)
- Predictive maintenance and monitoring systems for railways  
- [Mr. Václav Bolech, MeteoSource Ltd., Czech Republic](#)
- Incorporating climate-resilient designs in railway infrastructure

- Mr. Denis Jakubik, EIB-Jaspers (tbc)

Format: Expert presentation followed by Q&A.

15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:00 – 16:45 **Session 4: Institutional Frameworks and Policy Harmonization**

1 x 15 min

+  
30 min  
discussion

*Objective: To explore the regulatory and policy landscape governing railway interoperability and cross-border connectivity, to identify opportunities for enhanced cooperation and alignment.*

*Moderator: Mr. Dejan Lasica, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat*

Format: Introductory presentation with panel discussion with speakers and experts on the topics:

- Key EU regulations and their implementation in the non-EU Danube Region Countries
- Cross-border cooperation frameworks for interoperable and resilient railways

16:45 – 17:10

**Closing Panel Discussion: "Achieving Connectivity, Interoperability, and Resilience: The Way Forward for the Danube Region"**

Panel  
+  
discussion

*Objective: Reflect on the day's discussions and outline key steps for regional cooperation.*

*Moderator: Mr. Midhat Džemić, Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency of EUSDR, Directorate for European Integration*

Format: Moderated discussion with participants.

17:10 – 17:15

Closing remarks (and possible: and announcement of follow-up initiatives or events)

*\*Please note the agenda is subject to change*

Conference language: **English.** No interpretation available.