# New challenges for railway authorities of the Western Balkans

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Introduction and current situation
Identified gaps and recommendations
How Transport Community could help

## 1. Introduction and current situation

Rail Network passengers traffic (2008-2016)-WB and EU neighbours



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## Condition

Lengths of sections in "very poor", "poor" and "medium" condition on the entire TEN-T C&CNWB (in kilometers)

	"Very poor"	"Poor"	"Medium"	TOTAL	% of network
Rails	914	841	375	2,130	56%
Sleepers & Fastenings	1,112	138	130	1,380	36%
Ballast	1,793	168	75	2,035	53%

#### Alignment of the legislation with the EU acquis

- Transposition of the recast of the 1st railway package and 4th railway package as well establishment of single railway area should be given very high priority
- > Transposition (on good track) and implementation (slow) of the EU rail acquis
- > Restructuring is ongoing in all national rail companies

- Operational aspects
  - Financing gap
    - Investment gap for financing is 4.6 billion euros..
  - Operational constrains
    - Long duration of project preparation
    - Efficiency of using EU funds (IPA, WBIF, CEF)
    - Efficiency of using loans
    - Competitiveness

• Bottlenecks

- Alignment with TEN-T standards
  - Electrification, 78% of the OEM Corridor and 74% of the MED Corridor are compliant.
  - Axle load (22,5 t), 87% OEM Corridor and 77% MED Corridor.
  - 45% of the OEM Corridor and 12% of the MED Corridor are compliant in terms of maximum operating speed.
  - These results clearly indicate that a large percentage of the problems that the railway network in the region faces, are due to lack of proper maintenance.

- Bottlenecks
  - Lack of coordination between the operators or infrastructure managers
    - Long term strategies, business plans and network statements.
    - Maintenance plans.
  - Interoperability issues
    - Region needs to implement EU standards.
    - Infrastructure planning and construction.
    - Deployment of new systems (e.g ERTMS).
    - BC and IT systems
    - Mutual recognition of driver licences.

## 3. How Transport Community could help

- Accelerating the process of EU acquis transposition
- Through TCT structures facilitated process of implementation of legislation and project preparation
- Through TCT structures enhanced possibilities for national capacity building and knowledge sharing, which should decrease needed time for project duration and preparation
- Creation of single Western Balkans railway area which would bring to higher railway competitiveness
- Rail freight Corridors
- Through Connectivity agenda, WBIF and Core Corridor mechanisms more streamlined investments in the railway sector

## Thank you for your attention!