



# ***IPA regional workshop "New challenges for railway authorities of the Western Balkans"***

-

## ***A new rail strategy for the Western Balkans***

*Mr Laurent PRAT*

*European Commission, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport*

*16 October 2018*

*Budapest, Hungary*



## Background

*Communication from the Commission COM(2018) 65 final, 6,2,2018 "A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans"*

Increasing connectivity: "A new rail strategy is needed to bring the Western Balkans into the main EU network and market and to promote opening of the regional rail market." => (1) Agreements on priority **transport corridors** between the EU and the Western Balkans already in place (TEN-T) -> implement; (2) Align with EU **operational standards** (market and interop/safety); (3) Remove administrative bottlenecks and barriers at **borders**.

*EU-WB Summit 2018, Sofia Declaration*

"Support a new rail strategy to bring the Western Balkans into the main EU network and market"

# State-of-play of priority areas for action (1)

*Addendum to the SEETO MOU (2007) – Six objectives*

- 1- Building effective regulatory institutions for the rail sector
- 2- Separation of integrated rail companies, management independence, market orientation
- 3- Access to the market, interoperability and railway safety
- 4- Financial stability and transparency of railway companies
- 5- Facilitate cross border operations
- 6- Social dimension and social dialogue

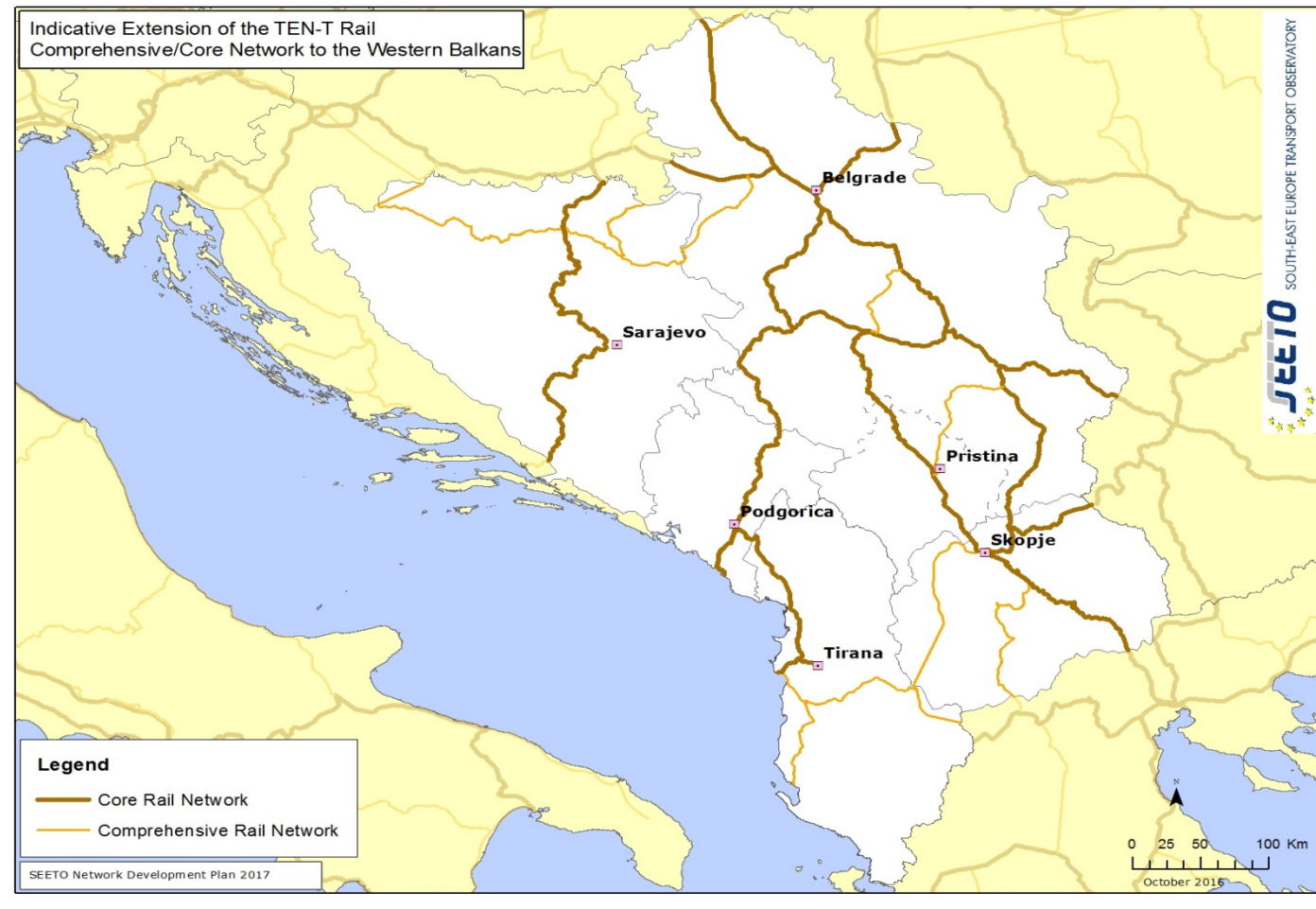


## State-of-play of priority areas for action (2)

### *Connectivity Agenda (2014 onwards)*

- Extension of TEN-T core and comprehensive network to the Western Balkans
- Three core network corridors proposed (Mediterranean, Orient/East-Med and Rhine/Danube)
- List of priority infrastructure projects
- Connectivity reform measures to be achieved by 2020

# State-of-play of priority areas for action (3)



# Rail Freight Corridors

The rail freight backbone of the multimodal Core Network Corridor of the EU

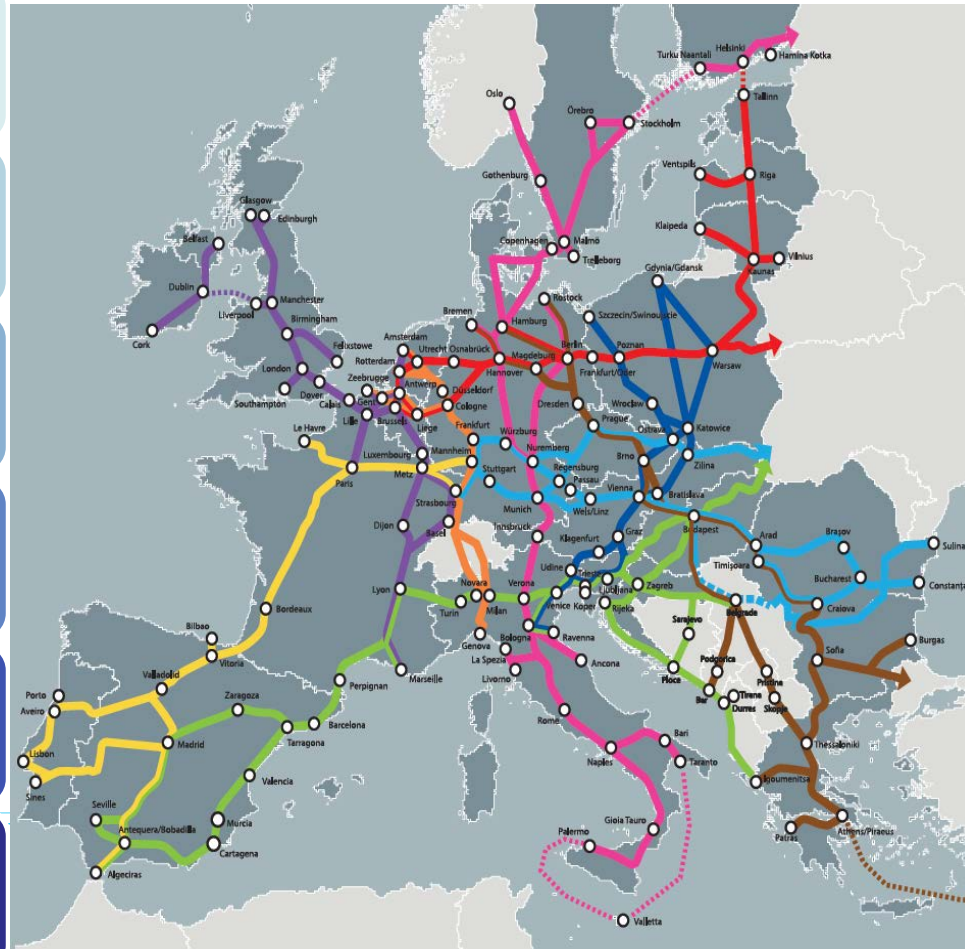
A key initiative to achieve a truly Single European Rail Area for rail freight

Co-operation across borders both at the level of Member States and infrastructure managers

The involvement of users in the development of the European rail freight system

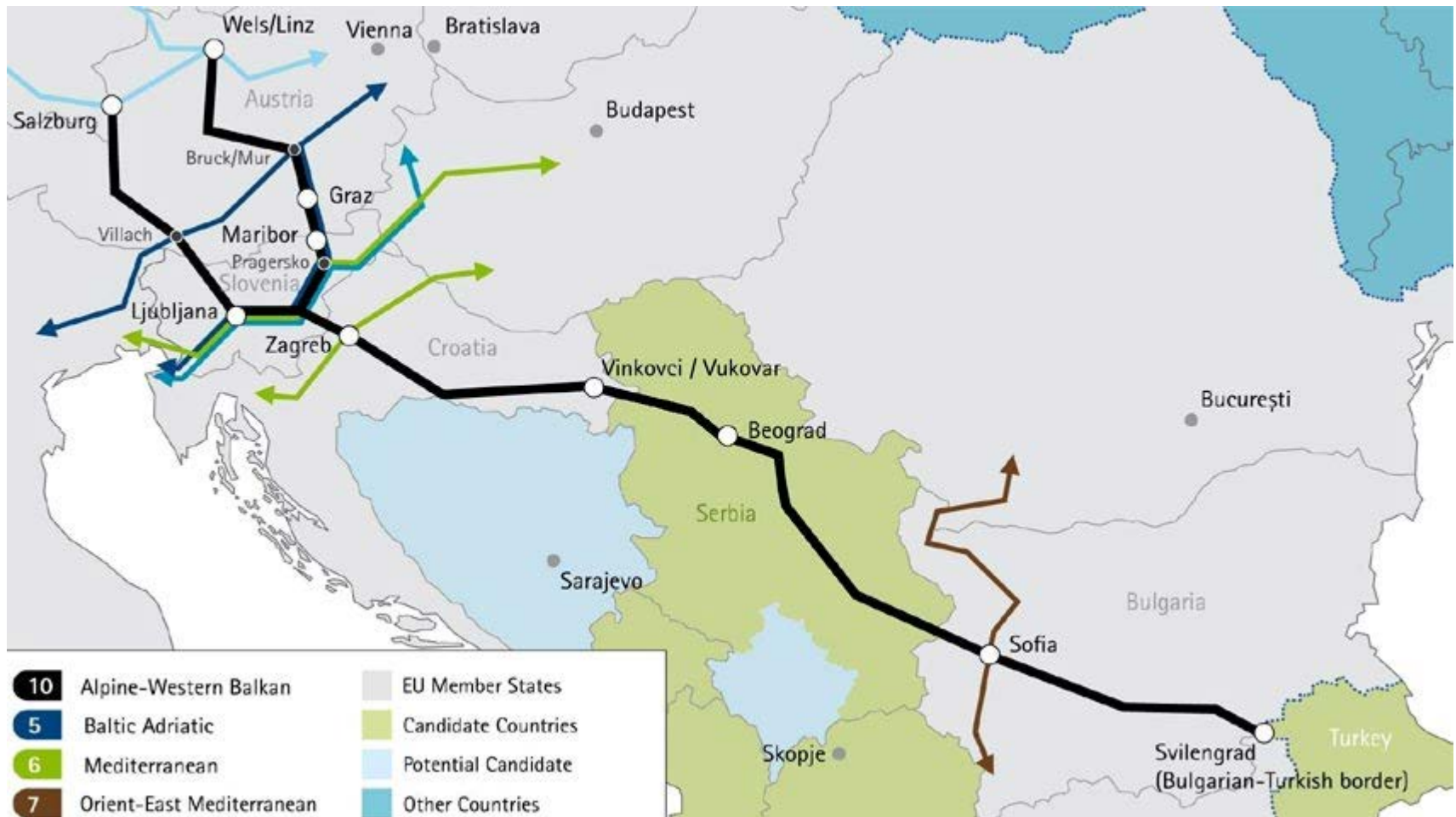
Capacity of good quality for international freight trains by co-ordinating capacity planning, traffic and infrastructure management

Setting up Corridor One-Stop-Shops as single contact points for the customers





# New Alpine-Western Balkans RFC (n° 10)





## Need for a regional approach

*To maximise/optimize investments in rail infrastructure, and target the real priorities with sustainable projects*

*Setting coordination mechanisms and common approaches (capacity allocation, traffic management, maintenance...)*

*National Rail markets in WB6 are small – seeking for a regional rail market with international linkages (TEN-T)*

*Providing legal certainty to rail operators / users (4th railway package) and developing multimodality.*



## Transport Community Treaty

- 1) *A transport community between the EU and WB6 countries (goes beyond the scope of SEETO)*
- 2) *An updated list of the EU acquis to be transposed*
- 3) *A dedicated governance framework including a secretariat (yet to be established), with two main activity areas:*
  - infrastructure development and financing (i.a. TEN-T projects, liaison with Western Balkans Investment Framework)*
  - EU acquis and policies (i.a. implementation of EU rail legislation, rail freight corridors, border crossing management)*



# Elements of a new rail strategy for the Western Balkans

- 1- Development of a regional approach for increasing rail freight transport within/through the WB, based on extended TEN-T and Rail Freight Corridor model*
- 2- Completing the institutional reform and the restructuring of the railway sector at national level, in line with EU rail acquis*
- 3- Implementing EU acquis in regards to rail safety and interoperability issues (e.g. ERTMS deployment, TAF TSIs)*
- 4- Improving the quality of service for passenger transport and freight, in particular at border crossing points*



## Tentative plan

*Political agreement on the elements of a new forward-looking rail strategy for the Western Balkans (by end of 2018)*

*Setting up of relevant TCT committee(s) / working group(s) on rail transport, supported by the TCT Secretariat (2019)*

*Development and implementation of a roadmap (action plan) under the auspices of the TCT (2019-2020)*

# Thank you for your attention

