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TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)  
PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE

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TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)  
Steering Committee  
41st session, 21 November 2016  
Geneva, Switzerland

**REPORT**

The 41st session of the TER Steering Committee was held on 21 November 2016 in the premises of the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

**PARTICIPATION**

The Member States that participated in the session were Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. Representatives of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division, TER Project Managers and the UNECE/TER Consultants also attended the session. List of participants is attached (Annex 1).

**OPENING OF THE SESSION**

Mr. G. Bessonov, the TER Project Manager, opened the session.

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Agenda of the session was adopted as submitted (Annex 2). In this connection, the decision was taken to summarize the decisions reached with regard to the particular items of the agenda in the list of MAIN DECISIONS to be annexed to this report of the session (Annex 3).

## **2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The participants in the Steering Committee elected as its officers Mr. Markus Radl (Chairman, Austria) and Mr. Konstantin Allakhverdyan (Rapporteur, Russian Federation).

## **3. REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGERS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK**

### ***a. TER Network and the Pan European Transport Corridors, Euro-Asian Transport Corridors and corridors of neighboring regions;***

The Steering Committee was informed by the Project Management about main activities performed in the reporting period, namely the successful Workshop on TER High Speed Lines – from planning to commissioning held in Vienna on 18 – 19 October this year, strengthening the contacts with Bulgaria and Romania, finalization of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the TER High Speed project as well as about the closer contacts with Azerbaijan, Belarus and Kazakhstan. The Steering Committee was informed about these efforts of the Project Management and took note of the report. The Steering Committee also discussed the need to clear the situation regarding present TER Member States first, especially those that are paying their annual fees but remain inactive, well before any newcomers consideration. The basic unanimity principle was recalled regarding acceptance of any new Member States.

### ***b. High Speed Rail Master Plan;***

The Steering Committee was informed by the presentation of the UNECE/TER Consultant, Mr. H. Adelsberger about the status of elaboration of the TER High Speed Master Plan,.

The Steering Committee took note of Mr. Adelsberger's presentation and decided that he should be more active in terms of including all publicly available data into his work and then specify the missing inputs to member countries and try to incorporate them in the final report. Accordingly, the Committee decided to postpone the deadline for delivery of the draft Final Report for one month, i.e. to 15 January 2017. The draft Final Report should be discussed at the next session of the Committee. The Committee requested that the report drafted so far was disseminated in order to analyse it internally by experts of TER Member States. The final payment of the Consultant for the 1<sup>st</sup> phase as well as the approval of the TOR of his contract for the second phase should be considered at the next session of the Steering Committee.

### ***c. Programme of Work 2017;***

**Commented [KJ1]:** Please, specify the procedure for submitting documents regarding TER HRMS and the payment.

The Project Management introduced the draft TER Programme of Work for 2017, distributed to the participants. Mr. N. Nikeolic (UNECE) ~~was requested by the Committee to provide~~ gave more information ~~to the Committee~~ on newly adopted ~~strategic TEM Strategic decisions Plan and TEM Steering Committee decisions by TEM project~~ regarding its operations ~~and to include those as an annex to this Report~~. In the course of ensuing discussion, Mr. N. Nikolic-, proposed the elaboration of the full-fledged 2017 TER Network report, covering in detail all its lines including TER project status and development in the coming 5 years, which proposal was accepted by the Committee. The Committee also approved the proposal of Mr. K. Alexopoulos (UNECE) to reflect in the item A.4.4. of the Programme of Work the newly concluded contract between the UNECE and the Islamic Development Bank.

Based on comments and proposals of the Polish delegation and on the outcomes of the discussion on the draft Programme, the Committee requested the Project Manager to adjust the titles and contents of the activities Nos. A.2.1., A.3.1., A.4.2. and A.4.3. in accordance with the results of this discussion.

Regarding p A.1.1 of the Programme of work TER Management was asked to submit instructions and reports of the meetings with international organisations for adoption of the Steering Committee.

Commented [NN2]: Which instructions?

**d. Budget 2017;**

The Committee approved the TER Budget for 2017 as submitted by the Project Management.

Commented [NN3]: Information?

**e. TER brochure;**

The Steering Committee approved the final text of the TER Brochure as presented by the TER PCO and authorized the Project Management to ensure in close collaboration with the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division their printing and distribution.

**f. Monitoring the Implementation of the TER Master Plan Revision in 2016;**

The Steering Committee took note the report of the UNECE/TER Consultant, Mr. P. Pospisil on monitoring the implementation of the TER Master Plan Revision in 2015 and requested him to send the copy of the report to National Coordinators by the end of November 2016 at the latest. The national reports on the results of the Master Plan implementation in 2016 should be sent to the TER PCO by 31 May 2017.

**g. 2015 Status of the TER Backbone Network**

Mr. P. Pospisil presented the report on the status of the TER backbone

network, accompanied by the maps showing the status of this backbone network as of 1 January 2016. The Consultant was requested to send the respective maps to the National Coordinators for their comments by the end of November 2016. They were requested to indicate on these maps also the changes occurred in the period 1 January – 31 December 2016 and to return them thus updated to the PCO by 31 May 2017. The Committee emphasized the appreciation for efficient and constant productive efforts of Mr. P. Pospisil for the Project.

#### **4. DECISIONS ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

##### ***a. Host country agreement with Serbia for 2015 – 2019***

The Steering Committee was informed by the UNECE representative Mr. N. Nikolic and by the Serbian representatives on the status of the TER PCO Host Country Agreement with Serbia, the final text of which, covering the period 2017 – 2018, ~~is~~was signed in April 2016. It is expected that ratification procedures by the Government of Serbia will be finalized by the end of November 2016. In that sense MoA will ~~be~~ formally ~~put~~enter into force.

##### ***b. TER Managers' contracts***

The UNECE representative, Mr. N. Nikolic, informed the session of the status of contracts of both Project Manager and acting Deputy Manager for the period 2017 - 2018. The representative of the Russian Federation confirmed that the contract of Mr. Bessonov was approved at all the levels of the administration and that the respective Memorandum of Agreement would be signed by the end of this year for 2017-18. The contract of Mr. Zimmer has been approved by the Austrian Ministry of Transport and the signature of the Memorandum of Agreement would follow as soon as the necessary administrative procedures on Austrian side are finalized – not later than 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction towards the Austrian authorities since there are three years now since discussions on this issue have started and the contract of Mr. Zimmer has not been finalized yet.

##### ***c. TER TF Contributions and Expenditures Report 2015 – statement***

The ~~report~~Report on TER Trust Fund Contributions and Expenditures in 2015, elaborated by the UNECE, was distributed at the session. As ensued from the report, the sound budget situation of the TER project continued in the course of the whole year. The Report was adopted by the Committee.

##### ***d. Status of TER Trust Fund Contributions and budget 2016***

Mr. N. Nikolic informed the Committee that 10 member countries already paid their contribution for 2016 and that the UNECE already sent the reminder letters to the remaining four member states. The total expenditures in the period January – October 2016 was approx. USD 88,000 out of the planned USD 270,000 by the TER Budget 2016. The Committee, supporting its Member States, requested [UNECE and the TER](#) Project Management to contact urgently the Romanian authorities to ~~pay~~ [fulfill their outstanding financial obligations their fee for the last 2 years.](#)

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

The final report on the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the Steering Committee held in Vienna on 17 May 2016 was adopted.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Steering Committee will take place in Belgrade in the first week of April 2017.

The representatives of Turkey informed the session about the UIC World Congress on High Speed Rail to be held in Ankara on 11 - 14 July 2017 and extended the invitation to take part in it to all the representatives of the TER member countries.

## **6. ADOPTION OF REPORT AND MAIN DECISIONS**

Closing the session, the Project Manager extended its thanks to the UNECE for hosting of the session, to the participating representatives of the member countries for their valuable contributions to its success and to the Chairman and Rapporteur for their outstanding services.

The draft report on the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Steering Committee was sent to National Coordinators. ~~Remarks will be collected within 10 days from dissemination.~~

Annexes: