



**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE**



RESTRICTED
TEM/57
5 December 2007
ENGLISH ONLY

**TRANS-EUROPEAN NORTH-SOUTH MOTORWAY (TEM)
Steering Committee**

Forty-eighth Session

3 - 5 December 2007, Geneva, Switzerland

REPORT

PARTICIPATION

1. The forty-seventh session of the TEM Steering Committee took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 3-5 December 2007. Representatives of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey participated in the session. The Director of the Partners for Roads Programme of the Dutch Government, as well as the Director of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Transport Division, the Chief of the Transport and Infrastructure Development Section, the Regional Adviser on Transport, the TEM Project Manager and the TEM PCO consultant also took part. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to the report.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. Mr. M. Arman, the outgoing Chairman, opened the session and passed the floor to Mrs. E. Molnar, Director of the UNECE Transport Division.

3. Mrs. Molnar welcomed the participants on behalf of the UN Economic Commission for Europe. She highly appreciated the progress reached by the TEM Project, mentioning especially the Master Plan and its follow-up activities including the comparison of the TEM backbone network with the AGR (E-roads) Network and the High Level Group multimodal axes. She underlined that the progress reached are at the same time accompanied by new challenges caused by the growing international traffic, increased awareness of environmental issues and of

needs of sustainable development as well as by the European Union enlargement and globalization in general. In concluding her presentation, she mentioned the growing UNECE relevance spanning most of the Northern hemisphere, as well as its successful involvement on developing Euro-Asian transport links, in which also the TEM contribution would be desirable and beneficial to TEM countries and to Europe as a whole.

4. Mr. M. Adamantiadis, Chief of the UNECE Transport Division's Transport and Infrastructure Development Section, introduced the new UNECE Regional Adviser, Mr. Constantinos Alexopoulos, who has filled the vacant post, on a temporary basis.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (TEM/WP.280)

5. The provisional agenda of the session, presented in Annex 2 of the report, was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6. Mr. M. Arman (Turkey) and Ms. S. Mastilovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) were elected Chairman and Rapporteur of the session, respectively.

REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER (TEM/WP.281)

7. In his report, the Project Manager informed the session about TEM PCO's as well as about his own activities in the reporting period. His report was approved by the session.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEM MASTER PLAN (TEM/WP.282)

8. The document, consisting of 4 parts, was examined by the Committee part-by-part. Each part was introduced by Mr. M. Hantak and the respective details were provided by Mr. P. Pospisil.

9. With respect to Part a) of the document, the decision was taken that the PCO, in close cooperation with the State Department of Roads of Georgia, would check the data of Attachment 6 and correct them accordingly.

10. Parts b) and c) were dealt with together. The Steering Committee decided that upon the requested confirmation of Slovakia and Hungary, the links Ploesti (Romania) – Bialystok (Poland) as well as Satu Mare (Romania) - Nyiregyhaza (Hungary) would be included in the

TEM Master Plan backbone network and TEM network, respectively in the framework of its revision in 2008.

11. The participating countries were requested to inform the TEM PCO about their contingent comments to both parts b) and c) of the document (status and principles) by the end of March 2008 at the latest.

12. In part d) of document TEM/WP.282, the decision was taken that the TEM Master Plan review will be materialized in the period of Spring 2008-Autumn 2009. In item WP.4.1 of the draft Master Plan review TOR, the new TINA study results will be mentioned. The amended TOR will be sent by the PCO to the Master Plan participating countries for additional comments with the deadline for them set at the end of February 2008. The Steering Committee requested the UNECE and the TEM PCO that following the receipt of country comments to coordinate the draft TOR with the corresponding TER ones, to finalize them accordingly, communicate them to all the Master Plan countries by the end of March 2008 at the latest and proceed with the elaboration of the revision within the time frames indicated above.

13. With respect to part e) of the document, the Committee took note of the proposed TEM Master Plan Follow-up Action Plan for the next year, recommending at the same time to the Project Manager to combine as appropriate meetings on financial securitization and bottlenecks and stage construction identification into one only for financial reasons.

POSSIBILITIES AND WAYS OF TEM PROJECT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT LINKS (TEM/WP.283)

14. Mr. M. Adamantiadis made a presentation on the UNECE-UNESCAP on Euro-Asian links project results. This presentation was supplemented by a short introduction of the document TEM/WP/283 of Messrs. M. Hantak and P. Pospisil, focused in particular on the possibilities of the TEM Project involvement in the EATL.

15. The Steering Committee, recognizing the importance of the Euro-Asian links for all TEM member countries, expressed its support for the involvement of the TEM in the EATL. Taking into account the shortage of reserves in the TEM PCO recommended for the time being that an involvement be on a demand driven basis. It also recommended to the UNECE to consider

possibilities of active participation of the TEM Project Manager in the work of the EATL Ad hoc Group of Experts.

OVERVIEW OF MAJOR EC RECENT DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST TO THE TEM PROJECT (TEM/WP.284)

16. The contents of the overview, including the main items for the TEM Project, were summarized by the TEM Project Manager.

TEM PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2008 (TEM/WP.285)

17. The draft TEM Programme of Work for 2008 was presented and explained item-by-item by the TEM Project Manager.

18. The Committee asked the Project Manager to reflect in the final document the proposed changes of Actions 1.1.6., 1.1.7., 1.1.10 and 2.1.1. and distribute it thus amended to the TEM countries as soon as possible. At the same time, it confirmed that the Steering Committee's session would last 3 days in general in accordance with the past and present practice.

19. The Committee also welcomed the statement of Mr. M. Goppel that the Partners for Roads Programme would consider its involvement in the TEM Master Plan review, especially in its updated forecast Work Package.

20. The Steering Committee approved the Project Manager's fee for the year 2007.

TEM BUDGET FOR 2008 (TEM/WP.287)

21. The Steering Committee approved the TEM budget for 2008.

PROPOSED TEM SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET TO THE TEM PROJECT BUDGET FOR 2008 (TEM/WP.288)

22. In compliance with the request of the 48th session of the TEM Steering Committee (paragraph 35 of the report on the session), the TEM Project Manager, in close collaboration with the UNECE, submitted a supplementary budget to the Committee for examination and approval, providing for the exceptional contribution at an equal level of USD 2,500 per country.

23. The Steering Committee approved the supplementary budget and requested the UNECE to send special letters to the participating countries, asking both for regular and exceptional Trust Fund contributions and dispatch them as soon as possible.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE TEM PROJECT FINANCES BY UNECE

24. The TEM Project Manager informed the Committee about the pending problems of the PCO caused by closing the TEM Project accounts in Warsaw and by more stringent implementation of UN rules and procedures. Mr. M. Adamantiadis confirmed that the UNECE Executive Secretary, Mr. M. Belka, received the related letters of the Steering Committee Chairman, Mr. K. Nemeč, dated 11 October 2007 and that the following meeting held in the UNECE premises on 31 October this year, in which also the TEM and TER Project Managers took part, proposed some partial solutions to the problems in question. These conclusions were explained in detail by the representative of the UNECE Executive Office, Mr. Angum Khan. Nevertheless, the minutes of this meeting are still not available and the proposed measure have not yet been materialized.

25. The Committee requested the Project Manager, therefore, to prepare these draft minutes and to send them to the UNECE. The UNECE should examine this draft, approve the final version of those minutes and inform the Chairman of the TEM Steering Committee of the results.

TEM PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

26. Messrs. M. Adamantiadis and M. Hantak pointed out that the PCO staff situation is very difficult, especially in the light of its demanding tasks related inter alia also to the Master Plan review and possible involvement of the Project in the EATL Project's second phase. The year 2008 will be critical in this respect, since Mr. Hantak's contract will expire by the end of that year.

27. Therefore, the UNECE was requested to launch the procedure aimed at the assignment of the Project Manager and his deputy for the next project phase from mid-2008 at the latest.

28. The Steering Committee, nevertheless, expressed the hope that taking into account this critical situation, the Slovak Government may be willing to propose the necessary extension of the present Project Manager's assignment.

OTHER BUSINESS

29. The Austrian representative, Mr. K. Nemeč, informed the session about the new motorway connection between Vienna and Bratislava open to traffic on 20 November 2007. In this connection, Austria proposed to include this new link, crossing the Austrian-Slovak border at Kittsee/Jarovce to the TEM network and as a consequence, to delete the existing TEM Corridor link via the Berg/Bratislava border crossing. Following the positive position of the representative of Slovakia, the Steering Committee approved this proposal.

30. The TEM Steering Committee addressed to the member countries the request to inform the PCO by end of January 2008 of their readiness to host TEM meetings next year in accordance with the approved TEM Programme of Work for that year. Following the invitations presented by the respective National Coordinators, the Committee noted that the next Steering Committee would be held in Prague, Czech Republic, the HEEP Area V annual meeting in Timisoara or Cluj Napoca (Romania), the TEM STAT meeting in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and one Master Plan review meeting in Budapest (Hungary). The remaining meetings may take place in Poland and/or Georgia. Upon clarification of all locations and timing of the meetings, the PCO will elaborate the list of the TEM 2008 meetings and distribute it to the member countries.

31. The draft document (Attachment to the TEM Trust Fund Agreement) for the next TEM Project Phase (2009-2012), will be elaborated by the PCO and submitted for examination of the next session of the Steering Committee.

32. The Committee authorized the PCO to cover the costs of board and lodging of one delegate of each non-TEM Master Plan country, participating in the key Master Plan review meetings from the TEM budget, provided that no other funding sources would be available for this purpose.

33. Mr. M. Adamantiadis informed the session about the established contacts with the Director of the Road Department of the Ukrainian Ministry of Transport and his interest in the TEM Project. He also transmitted to the Committee the invitation of the Director General of the Egnatia Motorway Company (Greece) to hold one of the TEM events, probably related to the TEM Master Plan follow-up, in Thessalonki and also to present there the experience gained in the course of construction of the Egnatia Motorway link.

34. Following the information of the TEM Project Manger regarding the request of Slovenia to include the link Maribor-Lendova-Hungarian border link to the TEM network, the Steering Committee expressed its readiness to do so upon receipt of the positive position of Hungary concerning the continuation of this route on its territory.

35. The Committee approved the provisional agenda of its 49th session:

- Adoption of the Agenda
- Election of Officers
- Report of the Project Manager
- Report on the Master Plan follow-up and review activities
- Financial report for 2007
- TEM status as of 1 January 2008
- TEM Project Phase 2009-20012
- TEM PCO staff
- Other business

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

36. The report on the 48th session of the Steering Committee was adopted.

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