



TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE

TER/SC/155

**Trans-European Railways (TER)
Steering Committee Meeting
23rd Session, 16 November 2006
Geneva, Switzerland**

REPORT

1. The 23rd Session of the TER Steering Committee took place on 16 November 2006, in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. The following TER countries attended the meeting: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. Ukraine, as observer country, as well as representatives of the UNECE and TER PCO and international consultant on TER Master Plan also attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached (Annex I).
3. Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer, Director Transport Division, UNECE, welcomed the participants. He confirmed the importance attached to the TER Project by UNECE and reiterated the commitment of the UNECE to continue supporting the implementation of TER Project objectives. He expressed the appreciation of the Executing Agency on the progress of the TER Project and on the follow up activities in the implementation of the Master Plan in 2006. He thanked the experts of the TER countries, the consultants and the PCO staff for their input in the implementation of the tasks of the Master Plan.
4. He drew the attention of the participants to the difficult staff situation of the TER PCO in Budapest and reiterated the UNECE request addressed to all TER countries to consider again the possibility of nominating their candidates for the post of Deputy Project Manager and Assistants Project Manager. He also recalled to the participants the developments related to the relocation of the PCO . He expressed gratitude to the Government of Hungary for hosting the PCO since the beginning of the Project. He also expressed gratitude to the Government of Slovakia for its readiness to host the TER PCO in the future.

Election of Officers

5. The participants of the Steering Committee elected Mr. Hep (Czech Republic), Chairman and Mr. Radl (Austria), Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda

6. The participants of the Steering Committee adopted the Agenda of the Session. (Annex II).

Report of the Project Manager

7. The Project Manager outlined the activities developed by the PCO from the last Session of the Steering Committee until now.
8. He underlined the results obtained in continuing the successful development of TER in spite of the shortage of personnel in the PCO among which the implementation of the TER Master Plan follow-up work.
9. The Steering Committee requested that in future the report of the Project Manager be further elaborated in order to reflect the results obtained for TER Project and its member countries from meetings attended.
10. The Steering Committee endorsed the Report and activity of the Project Manager.

Implementation of the TER Master Plan (a), (b), (c), (d)

11. The consultant presented the outline of the reports provide under this item and distributed as docs. TER/SC/151/152/153 as well as the report of the WP.1 meeting including main recommendations and distributed as doc. TER/AC/150. He recalled the extensive presentation made on this subject during the WP.1 meeting on 14 November 2006.
12. The participants adopted the report of the WP.1 meeting together with the reports prepared by the consultants.(Annex III)

Strengthening cooperation with selected Subsidiary Bodies of the UNECE Committee on Inland Transport (WP.5 on Transport Trends and Economics and SC.2 on Rail Transport)

13. The representative of the Executing Agency informed the participants on the initiative in organizing back-to-back and joint meetings between TER and SC.2. He underlined that such an activity would be mutually beneficial, increase efficiency, facilitate attendance of experts, promote transfer of know-how, sharing of best practices and developing joint focused activities.
14. The Steering Committee supported this initiative and requested the continuation of such joint activities in the future. It was noted that during the 60th session of the SC.2 participating Governments entrusted TER Project with the continuation of the exercise on monitoring the facilitation of railway border crossing procedures.

15. The representative of the Executing Agency informed the participants that the WP.5 at its 19th session proposed to the TER and TEM Projects to consider further strengthening their cooperation with it in the form of joint workshops and meetings, promotion and elaboration of focused studies etc. To this end, the Steering Committee was invited to consider this proposal as well as the ways and means to develop such activities.
16. The Steering Committee welcomed the proposal of the WP. 5 and agreed to give further consideration to this issue.

Draft Programme of Work for 2007

17. The Project Manager taking into account the present situation in the Project proposed that the Programme of Work for 2007 be the implementation of the TER Master Plan Action Plan distributed as doc. TER/SC/153.
18. The Steering Committee approved the Programme of Work for 2007 (Annex IV).
19. Bearing in mind that combined transport and intermodality is increasingly important to TER countries it was agreed that the Project Manager together with the Executing Agency would consider specific areas for possible TER actions in this field and make proposals to the next Steering Committee session.
20. Appreciating the work done in the past in the field of data collection and GIS mapping and in spite of current staffing difficulties in TER PCO the Steering Committee stressed the importance of the continuation of this activity and requested the Project Manager, in cooperation with the Executing Agency, to explore all possibilities for its implementation.

Draft budget for 2007

21. The Project Manager presented the Draft budget for 2007 and provided detailed explanation on each budget item.
22. The Steering Committee approved the budget with some modifications. The revised version of the budget is attached (Annex V).

Location of TER PCO, status of international personnel in PCO and other related issues.

23. The representative of the Executing Agency informed the participants about the confirmation of the Hungarian Government to host TER PCO until the end of 2006. At the same time he provided information on the developments in relation to the relocation of PCO in Slovakia. The representative of Slovakia presented details on the current procedures taking place in his country.
24. Referring to the lack of international personnel in the PCO, the Project Manager and the representative of the Executing Agency requested once again the member countries to look for candidates for the position of Deputy Project Manager and Assistants Project Manager in order to enable the development of normal activities and implementation of the Programme of Work.

25. The participants suggested that letters from the Executing Agency signed at the highest possible level be addressed to the Ministers of Transport from the TER countries requesting proposals of candidates for the PCO. At the same time the Project Manager was requested to pay visits to such member countries where a positive reply to this issue could be expected.

Other business

26. The Project Manager and the representative of the Executing Agency informed the Steering Committee that according to UN financial rules and regulations some changes in the procedures occurred affecting substantially the TER Project activities. These include, closing of the TER bank account in Budapest, more stringent payment procedures, involvement of the UNOG Finance Department, etc. However, it was clarified that all efforts are made that these changes will not put into jeopardy the smooth continuation of the project activities. The Steering Committee expressed concern about these developments and requested the Project Manager and the UNECE to present at its next session the final arrangements made or alternative solutions based on TER countries' proposals.

Adoption of the Report

27. The report of the 23nd Session of the Steering Committee together with annexes was adopted.
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