



**TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE**

**TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
32nd Session, 10 – 14 September 2012
Timisoara, Romania**

REPORT

1. The 32nd Session of the TER Steering Committee was held on 10 - 14 September 2012 in Timisoara, Romania.

PARTICIPATION

2. The countries that participated in the meeting were: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia and Turkey. Representatives of the UNECE, TER PCO and the UNECE Consultant also attended the meeting. List of participants is attached (ANNEX I).

OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. The session was opened by Mr. H. Meelich, the TER Project Manager.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Agenda (ANNEX II) of the session was approved as amended.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. The participants in the Steering Committee elected as its officers Mr. D. Nestic (Chairman, Serbia) and Mr. M. Radl (Rapporteur, Austria).

REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER

6. In his report, the Project Manager informed about the staff changes in the UNECE Transport Division, where Mr. M. Pesut replaced Mr. M. Adamantiadis, who retired recently. As a result of this, Ms. M.-S. Fouvier has been assigned as the Regional Adviser responsible for the TER project, in addition to her same position with respect to the TEM project. The Project Manager further briefed the session about TER PCO's as well as about his own activities in the reporting period. He especially underlined the successful finalization of the TER Master Plan Revision, implementation of the Follow-up Action Plan by the TEM and TER Joint Rail and Road/Motorway Follow-up Expert Group and involvement of the TER in the SETA project, dealing with the improvement of connections between the north Adriatic seaports and landlocked countries of Central Europe. He then reported about his other project-related activities and actions aimed inter alia at establishment of closer contacts with the Ukrainian authorities of the Lviv and Chernivtsi regions, trip to Romania and Turkey to discuss the possibilities of improving and extending the ferry services between these and also between the other Black Sea countries as a follow-up of the TER and TEM Workshop on Research and Development, Intelligent Transport Systems, Road/Rail Intermodal Innovations and Road Safety held in Ankara, Turkey in March this year. Using this opportunity, he also reached an agreement with the Turkish authorities on possible participation of the TER project in the Istanbul Trade Fair in 2013.

7. The report of the Project Manager was endorsed by the Committee.

TER FINANCIAL REPORT 2011 AND STATUS OF TER TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2012

8. On behalf of the UNECE, the Project Manager informed the session that as of 31 December 2011, the Project had a positive balance amounting to USD 581.422.

9. The Steering Committee expressed its satisfaction as to the sound financial position of the Project as well as its appreciation of the related activities of the Project Manager and approved the 2011 financial report.

TER PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2013

10. The TER Project Manager presented the draft TER Programme of Work for 2013, explaining at the same time that it focuses more than before on co-operation with international organizations, research institutes and universities in promoting new technologies, namely information systems and telematics in the rail transport and newly also

on closer collaboration with the UNECE in dealing with the consequences of the climate change.

11. In the course of the ensuing discussion, the representatives of the Czech Republic proposed to include to the next year's programme of work also a new topic aimed at gaining a good railway infrastructure in the TER region, speeding up passenger transport and increasing the reliability of freight transport at the same time. Such a study, analyzing the past, present and future international railway connections in the region may serve as a basis for discussion with the European Commission on ways of improvement of passenger railway operation especially on the border sections of the backbone network.
12. The representative of Croatia confirmed that his country faces similar problems regarding the border sections, having despite high infrastructure costs low passenger traffic flows. The Committee recommended the Czech representatives to specify their proposal in more detail and submit it in a written form to the next session of the Committee.
13. The representative of Poland stressed the high importance of the climate change issue and recommended to consider the establishment of the special TER Expert Working Group to deal with the challenges in the rail transport resulting from this change. In this connection, the Project Manager drew the attention to the forthcoming presentation of the UBIMET company, providing the railway companies with new tools aimed at avoiding climate-related dangers to the infrastructure.
14. The representative of Serbia informed the session about the Agreement on establishment of a high performance railway network in South East Europe, aimed at creating the network of railways for passenger, freight and intermodal transport, offering faster, higher-quality and more competitive rail connections with significantly reduced travel times between the main urban and commercial centres, signed by the 10 countries of the region in Thessaloniki in 2006. The copy of the Agreement is attached to this report as its ANNEX III.

TER COST PLAN FOR 2013

15. The Project Manager introduced the 2013 TER cost plan with grand total expenditures amounting to USD 293.120 and net total ones (without the Programme Support Costs and Operating Reserve) to USD 229.000, underlining the fact that almost half of these resources (USD 110.000) would be earmarked for the Group Training only, which would make it possible to increase the number of participants of each member country in the TER meetings from 2 to 3. The cost plan was approved by the Steering Committee.

2012 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF MONITORING OF THE TEM AND TER MASTER PLAN REVISION IMPLEMENTATION IN 2011

16. The document, elaborated in line with the conclusions of the first meeting of the TEM and TER Joint Rail and Road/Motorway Follow-up Expert Group, held in October 2011 in Salzburg, was introduced by Mr. P. Pospisil, the TER Consultant. It summarized the results, comments, information, data and additional proposals related to the Master Plan Revision Final Report, received by TER Project Central Office from Azerbaijan, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. Regarding the implementation of the TER Master Plan Revision projects, it inter alia demonstrated that in the first year following the publication of the Final Report only, 80% of these projects incurred some changes. The report is attached to this report as its ANNEX IV.

HARMONIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT OF RAILWAYS IN THE TER REGION WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE FUTURE HIGH SPEED NETWORK

17. This item of the agenda was opened by the Project Manager, who passed the floor to Mr. Konstantinos Alexopoulos, the representative of the UNECE Transport Division.
18. Mr. Alexopoulos informed the session about the activities of the UNECE Transport Division related to the rail transport and namely about those of the Inland Transport Committee's Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2). The next meeting of the SC.2 would be held in November 2012 in Geneva, in which also the TER representatives were invited to participate. He drew the attention of the Steering Committee to the SC.2 proposal to elaborate the Master Plan for High Speed Railways in the UNECE region, available on the UNECE website and invited the TER project to take part in the activity.
19. The Czech representatives expressed their support to the UNECE proposal, but – taking into account the specific conditions of Central Eastern Europe – proposed to implement it in 2 stages, at first for the TER region and then to extend it to the other UNECE countries. They also underlined the need to have such a Master Plan ready quickly in order to protect the land needed for the construction of high speed lines as well as to avoid the related future environmental damages.
20. The representative of the Russian Federation supported the UNECE proposal and proposed to work on both (TER and non-TER) parts of the Master Plan for High Speed Railways in parallel at the same time, based on the approved methodology and uniform approach.
21. All the delegates expressed their general support for the elaboration of the Master Plan for High Speed Railways for both the TER as well as for the UNECE region and underlined the need to concentrate on realistic solutions, especially in the first stages. They considered it necessary not to take excessive risks, solve problems in advance and

consider all the future major challenges including e.g. the economic issues, electricity consumption and environmental issues.

22. In this context, the Project Manager informed the session that there were 3 TER expert meetings planned in the first half of the 2013, namely in the Czech Republic, Turkey and in the Russian Federation and that at all these meetings the High Speed item would represent one of the most important topics.
23. Concluding this item of the agenda, the Chairman requested the Project Manager to elaborate the full-fledged Terms of Reference for the elaboration of the TER High Speed Railway Master Plan and to submit them to the next session of the Committee for examination and approval. At the same time, he asked the members of the Committee to study all the related documents, especially the ones available on the UNECE website, in order to be in position to examine and comment on the above TOR proposal of the Project Manager at the 33rd session of the TER Steering Committee in November 2013 in Geneva.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

24. The report on the 32nd session of the Steering Committee was adopted.
25. The participants extended their thanks to the Romanian Ministry of Transport as well as to the Province and Town of Timisoara for hosting the session and to the organizing team led by the Project Manager for its outstanding organization.