



TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE

TER/WP1/75

Working Party on Infrastructure
Development and Technical
Operations (WP1)
10th Session
(24-26 October, 2005)
Warsaw, Poland

ABRIDGED REPORT

1. The 10th Session of the Working Party on Infrastructure Developments and Technical Operations (WP1) was held on 24-26 October 2005 in Warsaw, Poland.
2. The representatives of the following TER member countries attended the meeting: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. The representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine as observer countries as well as of the UNECE-TER/PCO also attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached. (Annex 1).

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The participants adopted the proposed Agenda of the meeting (Annex 2)

Election of the officers

4. The Project Manager proposed to chair the meeting. This proposal was approved.

Report of the Project Manager

5. The Project Manager provided detailed information on the activity developed by the PCO for the period from the last Session of the Steering Committee (20-22 April 2005, Vienna, Austria) until to date. He underlined the important activities in which the PCO staff was involved and particularly the main areas on which its efforts concentrated: organisation of the St. Gallen meeting on modern railway techniques and technologies with Swiss Rail Industry, the completion of work on TER Master Plan, on providing assistance to new countries to join TER, on EATL links.

The Project Manager underlined the efforts of UNECE as well as PCO to extend TER membership towards other countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Switzerland.

6. The participants approved the activity of the Project Manager.

Status of the TER Network

7. The Project Manager presented doc. WP1/71 on the status of the TER network asking the member countries if new line sections were declared priority sections in order to be considered in addition to the list of railway lines included in the Attachment, Part 3, Annex 1 of the Trust Fund Agreement.
8. The representative of Azerbaijan viewing its future membership to TER proposed to be included in the TER network the lines Alat-Astara and Astara (Azerbaijan) - Astara (Iran).
9. Detailed information on this proposal will be presented to the next Session of TER Steering Committee (14-16 November 2005, Prague, Czech Republic) when a decision will be also taken.

Information on the implementation of TER Master Plan

10. The Deputy Project Manager made a presentation in Power Point on the final Report of the TEM and TER Master Plan.
11. The countries appreciated the efforts of the PCO to ensure the coordination of this project and observe the schedule foreseen for the implementation of the Master Plan.

Presentation by each country of projects implemented lately

12. Representatives of all countries present at the meeting made detailed presentation on the latest projects implemented or under implementation, on the railway reform and transposition of EU Directives into the national legislation, on the efforts made in order to achieve better economic results from railway activity and increase the profits.
13. The exchange of views in this field was very appreciated, the countries sharing the experience of each other in improving the quality of railway transport in general and obtaining better results and becoming more efficient in particular.

Report on the TER-CEI Seminar on facilitation of border crossings in international rail transport, held on 24-26 November 2004 in Portoroz, Slovenia

14. The Deputy Project Manager presented the conclusions of the Seminar held on this subject in Portoroz, Slovenia and distributed as doc. WP1/73.

15. He explained that the agreed system of data collection on the situation at border crossings in the TER countries was continued successfully as in the past being a good basis for assessing the progress achieved in this field.
16. All countries agreed on the need to continue to provide such information on the situation existing on 30th of June of every year. Information will be sent to PCO by the end of August.

Review of border crossing procedures, measures taken in 2004-2005 in TER or in TER-CEI countries to bring border control in line with Schengen regulation or EU Directives.

17. The Deputy Project Manager made a presentation in Power Point on the situation at border crossings based on the information received from the member countries.
18. It was reviewed and discussed the situation at the most important border crossings and the representatives of each country provided information on the progress achieved lately in facilitating border control procedures or the real reasons which were at the basis of the delays registered.
19. It was noted that the border control in several countries was or will be facilitated by the conclusion of bilateral agreements as between Hungary-Romania, Turkey-Bulgaria or Turkey-Syria-Iran.
20. It was recognised that missing data in case of some countries was creating problems in assessing the real situation along a corridor or adopting the adequate recommendations for improving the situation.
All countries agreed to provide to PCO the missing data in electronic format. The presentation on the situation at border crossings in TER countries was distributed on CD-ROM.
21. An important issue outlined by representatives of many countries was the technical deficiencies of freight wagons used in international traffic which provoke delays to changing wagons, or locomotives, loading and unloading of goods, technical verification of brakes, verification of transport documents, etc.
22. The problems or obstacles identified in the field of border crossing procedures were included in the last chapter of the presentation on the CD-ROM distributed to the participants during the meeting (Annex 3.).
23. The representative of Romania presented aspects of the Common Declaration of the Governments of Romania and Hungary including the item on border control in passenger trains signed on 20th October 2005 in Bucharest.
24. The representative of Hungary proposed that further discussions on the implementation of this common decision to take place also within the ad-hoc group on border crossings.

25. The representative of Croatia provided information on latest agreements concluded with Slovenia for facilitating the border control in Dobova as well as plans for other border crossings.
26. The representative of Turkey informed about latest developments in including border control between Turkey-Greece and Turkey-Bulgaria.

Presentation of TER-CEI proposals for establishment of a common Task Force on facilitation of border crossing procedures

27. The Deputy Project Manager introduced doc WP1/74 on this subject. He underlined the importance of an active participation to this group of the EU-TER countries in order to implement adequate solutions in other countries situated at the external border of the enlarged EU.
28. Because TER is the only organisation collecting data on an yearly basis on the situation at border crossings in the member countries such an activity was appreciated as of real interest to them.
This useful activity provides not only the possibility to exchange experience among the member countries in order to apply adequate solutions to the problems but offers also the possibility to assess the situation in this field on longer corridors.
29. The major obstacles identified at the border crossings in the TER region and the possibilities for their removal would be on the Agenda of an ad-hoc Working Group who would prepare a list of adequate solutions to such barriers. The activity of this Group will be decided by the next TER Steering Committee.

Other business

30. The representative of Poland provided a brief information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the system SUW-2000 securing the automatic gauge changing.

Adoption of the Report

31. The participants of the WP1 meeting approved the Report of the Session with Annexes.
32. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Polish authorities for hosting this meeting and offering good conditions for its successful end.