

**Joint efforts on border crossing facilitation by UNECE TER and CEI**

The continuation of the joint efforts between the UNECE Trans-European Railway (TER) Project and the Central European Initiative (CEI) in monitoring the developments in railway border crossing facilitation in Central and Eastern Europe was the main subject of the discussions between the TER Project Management Team and the CEI Executive Secretariat in their last meeting in Trieste, on 30 March 2004.

The organization of a Conference on the facilitation of the railway border crossing in Central and Eastern Europe within the next CEI Summit Economic Forum, in Portoroz, Slovenia, 24-25 November 2004, in cooperation with UIC, and the establishment of a joint CEI-TER Task Force on border crossing procedures, as an operational arm for the promotion of the respective initiatives of the two organizations, were among the main conclusions of the meeting.

The two sides agreed on the draft agenda and programme of the Conference, as well as on the basic ideas for the composition and the objectives of the joint CEI-TER Task Force on border crossing procedures. The need for sharing the most advanced experiences in the field and the promotion of implementation of similar solutions by other countries was stressed. The cooperation between TER and CEI will be among the topics to be further discussed by the governmental delegates of the TER member countries at the next session of the TER Steering Committee, to be held in Geneva, on 10 - 11 June 2004.

The UNECE TER Project considers CEI an important partner in its efforts to promote the development of railway and combined transport operations and transport integration in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, since the added value generated by such a cooperation is expected to be highly beneficial to its member countries, the majority of which, are also members of CEI.

