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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Rail Transport****Sixty-eighth session**

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Trans-European Railway (TER) project**Trans-European Railway (TER) project*****Submitted by the TER Project Manager****I. Mandate**

1. The information provided below for the Trans-European Railway (TER) project have been prepared by the secretariat in line with the mandate of the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) to report on specific TER project developments in accordance with its programme of work for the period 2014-2018 (ECE/TRANS/2014/26, activity 02.5.1, output C (a)).

II. Objectives of the Project

2. The main target of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project is to improve the quality and efficiency of transport operations, to assist the integration process of European transport infrastructure systems, and to develop a coherent and efficient international railway and combined transport system in accordance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Pan-European infrastructure agreements.

3. Among the various goals of the TER is the facilitation and development of coherent and efficient international railway and combined transport system among the Central and Eastern European countries and through the territories of the countries participating in the project, as well as between them and other European countries. The contribution in absorbing of an important part of congestion in the Central and Eastern Europe and in the

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reduction of environmental and safety problems on major international railways of those countries.

III. TER development 2013–2014

4. The new TER Management, Mr. Gennady I. Bessonov and Mr. Andreas C. Zimmer, who were elected during the Steering Committee Sessions in 2013, started their activities from the January 1st 2014. The first tasks of the new management were to present a Programme of Work for 2014–2015 and adopted a cost plan, which is adequate to the proposed Programme of Work.

5. The main tasks for 2014 are:

- (a) Promotion of TER Project;
- (b) Visibility and attraction for TER;
- (c) TER integration into Pan-European Transport Environment;
- (d) Development of a methodology for High Speed Trains Master Plan;
- (e) Safety at Level Crossings.

IV. Activities 2014

6. Main TER activities in 2014:

(a) Working on a new TER Vision with a suitable strategy in order to attract new prospective and to express the unique selling proposition of a modern and highly effective international project;

(b) Cooperation with the Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) Project to analyse the expected cargo and passenger flows between Europe and Asia and to be able to make a traffic simulation in order to acquire a higher market share for rail transport in the next future;

(c) Cooperation with the Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law (GEURL) Project – to help to get faster to a single Euro-Asian Railway Transport Area as a basic instrument for enhancing the accessibility for railway customers;

(d) Cooperation with Group of Experts on Safety at Level Crossings – due to the rate of casualties on level crossings through our member countries, it is of highest interest to find an effective and economical solution. A practical trial of a new Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) solution for level crossings is prepared to be launched in Austria;

(e) Cooperation with the the European Rail Research Network of Excellence (EURNEX) – to find a common way to use the European Union (EU) Funding for research, development and education for our railway companies (e.g. Smartrail, Shift2Rail);

(f) Visits to Italy, Hungary, Germany in order to attract them for an entry to the TER Project, as well there are planned visits to Greece and Belarus for the same purpose;

(g) Visit to exhibitions and trade fairs regarding rail transport – to get in touch with the state of the art technology and solutions for our ambitious goals.