



TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE

TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
38th Session, 28 April 2015
Istanbul, Turkey

REPORT

1. The 38th Session of the TER Steering Committee was held on 28 October 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey.

PARTICIPATION

2. The countries that participated in the meeting were: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia, Russian Federation and Turkey. Representatives of the UNECE Transport Division, Mr. G. Bessonov, the TER Project Manager, and Mr. A. Zimmer, the TER Deputy Project Manager also attended the session. List of participants is attached (Annex 1).

OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. On behalf of the host country, Mr. I. H. Cevik, the TER National Coordinator for Turkey, welcomed the members of the Steering Committee in Istanbul. Mr. G. Bessonov, the TER Project Manager opened the session.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Agenda of the session was approved as submitted (Annex 2).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. The participants in the Steering Committee elected as its officers Mr. I. H. Cevik (Chairman, Turkey) and Mr. R. Cech (Rapporteur, Czech Republic).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT AND REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER

6. In their reports, the Project Manager and his Deputy summarized the results achieved by the Project as well as their own activities in the reporting period from the 37th session of the Committee. They informed the participants about the implementation of a new Project strategy aimed at creation wider prospects for TER, presenting it as a modern and highly effective international institution as well as at strengthening the connectivity of the TER backbone network. In this respect, they reported on the results of collaboration with the international organizations dealing with the rail transport, inter alia with the European Commission, OSJD, the UNECE Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL) project and with the ITC Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings. They also presented the outcomes of their negotiations with Belarus, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, focused on their future admission to the TER Project.

ADOPTION OF PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE YEAR 2015

7. The Steering Committee examined the documents submitted by the TER Project Central Office and discussed in detail these items of the Programme of Work for the year 2015:
 - TER Network and the Pan European Transport Corridors, Euro-Asian Transport Corridors and corridors of neighboring regions (item 5.a. of the Agenda of the session);
 - High Speed Rail Master Plan (item 5.b. of the Agenda of the session);
 - Promotion of TER and Relevant Activities (item 5.c. of the Agenda of the session);
 - Rail Financing (item 5.d. of the Agenda of the session);
 - Ports Hinterland Connections (item 5.e. of the Agenda of the session);
 - Safety at Level Crossings (item 5.f. of the Agenda of the session);
 - Monitoring the Implementation of the TER Master Plan Revision in 2014 (item 5.g. of the Agenda of the session);
 - 2014 Status of the TER Backbone Network Revision (item 5.h. of the Agenda of the session).
8. The Conclusions reached with regard to each above item of the

Agenda of the session are summarized in Annex 3 with the individual conclusions numbered accordingly.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

9. The Steering Committee examined the documents submitted by the TER Project Central Office and the UNECE and discussed in detail the these Project Management items :
 - Future of the TER Project Central Office – Selection of New Host Country (item 6.a. of the Agenda of the session);
 - Information on TER Management Contracts (item 6.b. of the Agenda of the session);
 - TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement for 2016 – 2020 (item 6.c. of the Agenda of the session);
 - TER Cost Plan 2015 Budget – Statement (item 6.d. of the Agenda of the session);
 - Status of TER Trust Fund Contributions for 2014 (item 6.e. of the Agenda of the session).

10. The Conclusions reached with regard to the above items of the Agenda related to the project management are also summarized in Annex 3 with the individual conclusions numbered accordingly.

OTHER BUSINESS

11. In the framework of the session, the technical visit to the Marmaray Railway Engineering Project was organized by the Turkish hosts.

12. The 39th session of the TER Steering Committee will be held in Geneva on 23 – 26 November 2015 back-to-back to the 69th session of the SC.2 taking place also there.

ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS

13. The report on the 38th session of the Steering Committee was adopted.

14. The Committee extended its thanks to the Government of the Republic of Turkey and to the General Directorate of Turkish State Railways (TCDD) for excellent hosting of the session, to the Project Management for its perfect organization and to the Chairman and Rapporteur for their able performances.

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**



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CONCLUSIONS

Item 5a) TER Network and the Pan European Transport Corridors, Euro-Asian Transport Corridors and corridors of neighboring regions

1. The PCO was requested to proceed with the discussions with the neighboring countries aimed at their joining the TER Project.
2. The PCO was also requested to continue its work related to strengthening the connectivity of the TER network, making use of established contacts with the European Commission, OSJD and the EATL Project.

Item 5b) High Speed Rail Master Plan

3. The Steering Committee members, based on the already sent TOR to hire a consultant for the elaboration of the TER High Speed Master Plan as the first phase of the future overall Master Plan for all the UNECE member countries, will send the PCO their possible comments by 5 May 2015.
4. The PCO in consultation with UNECE will prepare and send the Steering Committee members the list of the best three candidates for the position of the consultant, accompanied by their CVs, criteria defined in the TOR for their selection as well as the necessary justification, by 8 May 2015. The Steering Committee members will send their comments on the candidates by 15 May 2015.
5. Upon receiving the comments, the PCO will provide necessary coordination between the Steering Committee members in order to ensure consensus on the best candidate for this position. After consultation with UNECE, the PCO will inform the Steering Committee members on the final decision and the money proposed to be earmarked this year for this work, by 22 May 2015 at the latest.
6. Should no objections to all the documents (decision on the consultant and

financial resources available) be received by the PCO by the end of May, it will be presumed that the Steering Committee mandated the UNECE Transport Division to start works on the consultant's contract.

Item 5c) Promotion of TER and relevant activities

7. The deadline of 30 June was set for comments to the 2015 draft brochure on the TER project.
8. The TER PCO will prepare a new draft of the brochure based on the comments of the countries, make it more concise, complement it with the respective diagrams, maps and figures and submit the final draft one month before the 39th session of Steering Committee to be approved by the members at the session.

Item 5d) Rail Financing

9. The Steering Committee mandated the PCO to start activities aimed at elaboration of pre-feasibility studies of main rail corridors to be selected in the region which should also contain recommendations on harmonization of the basic interoperability parameters of these corridors.
10. For this purpose, the member countries will send to the PCO their projects and corridor proposals supported by the basic data (location, costs, timing envisaged) by the end of July 2015.
11. In this connection, the PCO was requested to prepare the overview of available financial sources for elaboration of these studies, propose the respective prioritization of the projects in question and submit the document for examination to the next Steering Committee session.

Item 5e) Ports Hinterland Connections

12. The session requested the PCO to continue co-operation with the UNECE secretariat on ports hinterland connections and on possible contribution of the TER Project to its work.

Item 5f) Safety at level crossings

13. The Steering Committee mandated the PCO to invite kindly the representatives of the UNECE Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings to inform about the Expert Group results obtained so far.
14. The participants were kindly invited by the National Coordinator of Turkey to take part in the International Level Crossing Awareness Day to take place in Istanbul on 3 June 2015.
15. The PCO will consider the possible contributions of the TER Project to the work of the UNECE Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings e.g. by summarizing the status of such crossings on the TER backbone network or by its involvement in analyses of risks related to these crossings.

Items 5g) and 5h) Monitoring the Implementation of the TER Master Plan Revision in 2014 and the Status of the TER Backbone Network Revision

16. The Committee confirmed the established deadlines of 31 May 2015 for reports (3 templates) on implementation of the Master Plan for 2014 and

for indicating the changes of status of the TER backbone network as of 1 January 2015 on the respective TER maps, distributed by the PCO.

17. The PCO was requested to submit the final summary report on implementation of the TER Master Plan Revision in 2014 together with draft TER 2015 maps to the 39th session of the Steering Committee for examination.

Item 6a) Future of the TER Project Central Office – selection of new host country

18. Upon the information of the Project Management, UNECE and representatives of Austria and Serbia, the Committee noted that the present location of the PCO in Vienna is temporary and that the office is available until the end of 2015 and does not have the official status with the Austrian Government. It expressed, therefore, its thanks to the Government of Serbia for the official proposal to host the PCO for one year in Belgrade.
19. The Committee approved the Serbian proposal in general and requested the UNECE to contact the Serbian Government and ask it to consider its extension for two years from the date of signature of the host country agreement in order to provide uninterrupted functioning and continuity of the UN Project.
20. The Committee mandated that, upon the official reply to this request, the UNECE would prepare the respective the host country agreement to be signed by Serbia and the UNECE and inform the 39th session of the Committee about the result.
21. Since the Polish representative confirmed its readiness to host the PCO in Warsaw, expressed at the last session of the Committee, which proposal could not be submitted in an official way due to the lack of information about the present status of the PCO in Vienna, the Committee requested the UNECE and PCO to continue the contacts with the Polish Government on the subject aimed at the period after the termination of the host country agreement with Serbia.
22. The Steering Committee advised that a clause related to hosting period of the TER PCO should provide the option of automatic prolongation of that period for the next consecutive two years unless the hosting government informs, nine months before the expiry date of the host country agreement, the UNECE about its will to terminate hosting the TER PCO on its territory.
23. Representatives of the UNECE will explore the capacity possibilities of storing at least some part of the PCO archive in Geneva.

Item 6b) Information on TER management contracts

24. The Steering Committee asked the National Coordinator of Austria to inform the Committee on the next steps to conclude TER Deputy Manager Mr. Zimmer's contract and asked the representatives of the respective Austrian authorities and the UNECE to finalize the process of signature of contract as soon as possible.
25. The Committee decided that the items of extension of the contracts of the Project Manager and of the Deputy Project Manager would be put on

the agenda of its 39th session.

Item 6c) TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement for 2016 - 2020

26. The contingent comments to the draft new TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement Attachment for years 2016 – 2020, prepared by the PCO in close collaboration with the UNECE Transport Division, will be sent by the countries to the PCO by 30 June 2015 at the latest. The final version, taking into account the comments received, will be sent again by the PCO for approval to the TER National Coordinators. The approved version will be sent to the countries well in advance before the next session of the Committee.

Items 6d) and 6e) TER Cost Plan 2015 Budget and Status of TER Trust Fund Contributions for 2014

27. The Committee took note of the report of the UNECE representative on TER Trust Fund Contributions and Expenditures in 2014, according to which the financial situation of the Project was found very sound.

28. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Project Management and to the UNECE for their very able execution of the TER budget.