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

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**TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)  
Steering Committee  
47th Session, 24 April 2019  
Brno, Czech Republic**

**REPORT**

The 47th session of the TER Steering Committee was held in the premises of the Transport Research Centre (Centrum dopravního výzkumu - CDV) in Brno.

**PARTICIPATION**

The countries that participated in the meeting were: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia. Representative of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division, TER Project Managers and the UNECE/TER Consultant also attended the session. List of the participants is attached (Annex 1).

**OPENING OF THE SESSION**

Mr. G. Bessonov, the TER Project Manager, welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and opened the session. The outgoing Chairman of the Committee, Mr. I. Princic, introduced the new representatives of Croatia, Russian Federation and the UN TER Consultant, Mr. J. Raczynski in charge of elaboration of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the TER High Speed Rail Master Plan.

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

## **2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Steering Committee elected as its officers Ms. M. Kopczynska (Chairlady, Poland) and Mr. P. Pospisil (Rapporteur, Czech Republic).

## **3. REPORT OF THE MANAGERS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK**

1. The TER Project Manager informed the Steering Committee of developments that took place during the reporting period from the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee, stressing especially selection of Mr. J. Raczynski as consultant to elaborate the second phase of the High Speed Master Plan study, finalization of the 2018 TER Backbone Network Annual Report, elaboration of the structure of the 2019 report, successful management of the Project's budget and extension of the Host Country Agreement with Serbia until 9 March 2021. His presentation is annexed to this report (Annex 3).

### ***a. TER Network and the Pan European Transport Corridors, Euro-Asian Transport Corridors and corridors of neighboring regions;***

2. The Steering Committee was informed by the Project Management about the implementation of the adopted Programme of Work for 2019, of their efforts to reestablish the involvement of non-active member countries and of their work aimed at strengthening the connectivity of the TER backbone network, making use of the established contacts with the UNECE, European Commission, OSJD and the EATL Project. In this connection, the Committee requested the TER PCO to prepare the analysis of the EATL outcomes of possible use for the TER Project and submit it to the next session of the Committee.

3. The Steering Committee appreciated these efforts of the Project Managers and took note of the report.

### ***b. High Speed Rail Master Plan;***

4. Mr. J. Raczynski, the selected UNECE/TER Consultant for elaboration of the second phase of the TER High Speed Rail Master Plan study, presented the outline of his planned work including the proposed methodology and the related socio-economic, technical and operational aspects of the TER HSR Master Plan and the draft Questionnaire. Because of the short time available for the whole task, the Steering Committee decided that the draft Questionnaire will be distributed to National Coordinators on 25 April and established 3 May as the deadline

for their comments. The filled in questionnaires will be delivered to Mr. Raczynski via TER PCO by the end of May 2019, so that the preliminary HSR Master Plan report could be available by the end of July.

5. The copy of Mr. Raczynski's presentation as well as the draft Questionnaire constitute Annex 4 of this report.

**c. Programme of Work 2019;**

6. Mr. A. Zimmer, the TER Deputy Project Manager, informed the session in detail about the status of implementation of the TER Programme of Work for 2019. Based on his report, the Steering Committee expressed its interest in the future co-operation of TER with the EUSDR (Strategy for the Danube Region) Danube Transnational Programme and approved the participation of the Project Managers in its forthcoming Steering Committee meetings and/or forum.
7. In order to reactivate the participation of Romania in the Project, the Steering Committee requested the UNECE to send an official letter to the Romanian Ministry of Transport and to inform about the answer the Committee. In case of no response, the Committee authorized the Project Managers to visit the respective authorities of the country, requesting them to clarify their positions.
8. The National Coordinators will receive the electronic copy of the actual TER Brochure by 3 May this year and were asked to send their comments to it by 30 June at the latest, whereas comments received after this date could not be taken into account. This would make it possible to revise and print its final version before the end of 2019.
9. The Committee welcomed the idea to organize the joint workshop with the TEM Project in Vienna in 2020 to deal with the rail/road/water freight terminals and requested the TER PCO to contact the TEM in this respect and inform about the outcomes at the next session of the Committee.
10. The 48th session of the Steering Committee will be held back to back with the SC.2 session on 28 November 2019 in Geneva and the 49th session will take place in the Russian Federation back to back with the TER Workshop in May/June 2020. The information about the place and date of both these events will be presented at the next session of the Committee. As regards the 50th session to be held in October/November 2020, it should take place in some TER member country and the possibility to organize it in Croatia would be greatly appreciated.

**d. TER Financial Report 2018;**

11. The UNECE representative, Mr. F. Dionori informed the session about the financial position of the TER Project in 2018. The UNECE Finance Department has not yet finalized the accounts for 2018, but the total projected costs for 2018 are currently estimated at 79,400 USD. The final approved figures will be submitted for approval at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Steering Committee.

**e. *Monitoring the implementation of the TER Master Plan Revision in 2018;***

12. Mr. P. Pospisil summarized the results of the monitoring of implementation of the TER Master Plan in 2018, carried out in accordance with the established monitoring system. Its results served as inputs to the elaboration of the 2018 TER Backbone Network Annual Report.

13. He presented the final version of the comprehensive TER Backbone Network Annual Report 2018, summing up the previous two reports on TER Status and on the TER Master Plan Implementation. The link to this final version, that took into account all the comments of the member countries and of the UNECE, will be made available to all National Coordinators, UNECE and also to Mr. Raczynski.

**f. *TER Network Annual Report 2019;***

14. The Committee took note of the final structure of the TER Backbone Network Annual Report 2019, making provision for all the comments to its draft of 23.11.2018, received from the member countries and the UNECE. This final structure is attached to this report as its Annex 5.

15. In this connection, the National Coordinators were requested to provide the TER PCO with the necessary data for 2019 by the end of June 2019, making use of the respective templates to be sent to them by 10 May this year. In the 2019 Report, the data already available should be exploited as much as possible and the collection of new data should be simplified and minimalized.

16. The Committee approved the TOR for the services of the Consultant to assist the TER PCO in the implementation of the Project's Programme of Work in 2019, including the preparation of the background documents related to the TER meetings, follow-up of the TER Master Plan Revision and monitoring of its activities as well as the elaboration of the TER Backbone Network Annual Report 2019, based on the above final structure. The post for the consultancy will be advertised by the UNECE by 3 May 2019.

17. The Steering Committee decided to establish the selection committee to select the best candidate for consultant remotely

based on before agreed criteria. The committee will consist of Ms. M. Kopczynska (Chairlady), Ms. J. Divic, Mr. P. Hartl, Ms. V. Jerkovic and Mr. I. Princic. The results of the work of the selection committee will be submitted to the Steering Committee for approval and to the UNECE for signing the contract with the selected consultant.

#### **4. DECISIONS ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

##### ***a. Host country agreement with Serbia for 2019-2020***

18. The UNECE and TER PCO informed the Steering Committee about the signed extension of the Agreement between the Government of Serbia and the United Nations on the Trans-European Railway Project Central Office in Belgrade for the period of two years (2019-2021). The Steering Committee in this connection extended its thanks and expressions of gratitude to the Serbian Government for the invitation to host the Office in this extended period. The National Coordinators were invited to consider hosting the TER PCO from 2021 on and to inform about the results of these considerations at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Steering Committee.

##### ***b. TER Managers contracts***

19. The Steering Committee greatly appreciated the fact that Mr. G. Bessonov will continue as the Project Manager in 2019 and 2020. Regarding the Deputy Project Manager, the Committee reiterated its request to the Austrian Government to finalize the extension of the contract of Mr. A. Zimmer. In case of no proposal letter, the member countries will be requested to propose another Deputy Project Manager candidate. In the event that no such proposal will be received by end of June 2019, the TER PCO should prepare the TOR for the consultant to perform the work of the Deputy Project Manager and submit it to the next session of the Steering Committee for approval and selection of the best candidate, since the present uncertainty in this matter hampers substantially the activities of the TER Project.

##### ***c. Status of TER Trust Fund Contributions***

20. The UNECE representative informed the Committee about the status of the 2019 contributions to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund.

21. The Steering Committee asked the National Coordinators of the countries that have not settled their 2019 obligations yet to convey to the responsible authorities the request to do so as soon as possible.

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

22. Answering the question of the Slovenian representative regarding the upgrading of the equipment and technology in the TER PCO, Mr. A. Zimmer informed the Committee that 2 new computers are in place, while 2 already ordered screens have not been delivered yet.

23. The Steering Committee, referring to para. 11 of this report, noted that starting from 2020, the annual TER Programmes of Work should make provisions for two modern studies a year and for at least two workshops including technical visits.

## **6. ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS**

The following main decisions were adopted:

### **Item 3.a. of the Agenda**

- The analysis of the EATL outcomes of use for the TER Project will be submitted to the next session of the Committee.

### **Item 3.b. of the Agenda**

- The HSR Master Plan draft Questionnaire will be distributed to National Coordinators on 25 April, to be returned filled in to Mr. Raczynski via PCO by the end of May 2019 so that the preliminary HSR Master Plan report should be available by the end of July.

### **Item 3.c. of the Agenda**

- The Steering Committee approved the participation of Project Managers in the EUSDR forthcoming meetings.
- The Steering Committee approved the measures aimed at the reactivation of participation of Romania in the Project.
- The National Coordinators will receive the actual electronic version of the TER Brochure by 3 May and were asked to send their comments to it to the TER PCO by 30 June at the latest.
- The Committee welcomed the idea of organizing the joint workshop with TEM Project in Vienna in 2020 and asked the Project Management to continue its preparations.
- The 48th session of the Steering Committee will be held on 28 November 2019 in Geneva.
- The 49<sup>th</sup> session will take place in the Russian Federation back to back with the TER Workshop in May/June 2020. The 50<sup>th</sup> session will be held in October/November 2020 in some TER member country, possibly in Croatia.

### **Item 3.e. of the Agenda**

- The link to the final TER Backbone Network Annual Report 2018 will be delivered to all National Coordinators, UNECE and also to Mr. Raczynski.

### **Item 3.f. of the Agenda**

- The National Coordinators were requested to provide the TER PCO with the necessary data for elaboration of the 2019 Annual Report by the end of June 2019, making use of the respective templates to be sent to them by 10 May this year.
- The Steering Committee approved the TOR for the services of a Consultant to assist the TER PCO in the implementation of the Project's Programme of Work in 2019.
- The Committee decided on the process leading to the selection of the best consultant to accomplish the work specified in these TOR.

### **Item 4.a. of the Agenda**

- The National Coordinators were invited to consider hosting the TER PCO from 2021 and to inform about the result at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Steering Committee.

### **Item 4.b. of the Agenda**

- The Committee agreed on steps to be taken in order to solve the problems related to the post of the Deputy Project Manager at its next session.

**The Steering Committee adopted this report as amended.**

On behalf of the Steering Committee, the Project Manager extended his thanks to the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic and to the CDV Institute for their kind hosting and outstanding organization of the session. At the same time, he expressed his gratitude to the Chairman and Rapporteur for their excellent services.

Annexes: 5