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**TRANS-EUROPEAN NORTH-SOUTH MOTORWAY (TEM)
STEERING COMMITTEE**

Fiftieth Session

3 - 5 December 2008, Geneva, Switzerland

REPORT

PARTICIPATION

1. The fiftieth session of the TEM Steering Committee took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 3-5 December 2008. Representatives of Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia participated in the session. The Director of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Transport Division as well as the other representatives of the Division, the First Secretary of the Slovak Mission to the UN at Geneva, the TEM Project Manager and the TEM PCO consultant also took part. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to the report.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. Mr. K. Nemeč, the outgoing Chairman, opened the session and passed the floor to Mrs. E. Molnar, Director of the UNECE Transport Division.
3. Ms. Molnar welcomed the participants in the session on behalf of the UNECE and informed them that so far no Government responded positively to the letters of the UNECE asking for candidates for the post of the TEM Project Manager. Since Mr. Hantak's contract as the TEM Project Manager would terminate at the end of the year, the UNECE, respecting the decision of the Slovak Government not to renew it for at least one year, sent recently a letter to the Slovak Ministry of Transport and Communications, asking it to consider kindly the possibility of extending Mr. Hantak's present assignment at least for an intermediate period of 3 months before the new Project Manager is installed. She assured the session that the UNECE Transport Division had prepared respective scenarios to solve the managerial problem of the TEM Project. In this connection, she asked the National Coordinators to renew their efforts to find and nominate the candidate for the post of the Project Manager as soon as possible.

4. She also pointed out that at present the Transport Division has been in the process of reorganization and as a consequence of that, the decision was taken that instead of relying on one focal person responsible for the TEM and TER Projects only, a team consisting of 4 persons was established and put in charge of both projects with the clear division of labor between them. She also underlined the high importance assigned newly to the road safety issues, mentioning in this connection the recent UN General Assembly resolution on the subject, the Global Safety Conference to be held in November 2009 on invitation of the Russian Government as well as the recent initiative aimed at awarding the sections of major highways by stars, expressing the levels of risk of exposure related to their safety. She requested the members of the Steering Committee to consider ways of co-operation and contribution of the TEM Project to these important activities and initiatives.
5. Mr. M. Adamantiadis, the Chief of the Transport and Infrastructure Development Section of the UNECE Transport Division, introduced the new Regional Adviser, Ms. S. Fouvez and mentioned the main tasks and challenges the TEM Project would face, especially the TEM Master Plan Revision, involvement in the EATL project, strengthening the mutually beneficial co-operation with the bodies of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee, namely with the SC.1 and WP.1. He also highly appreciated the very successful managerial performance of Mr. Hantak, the TEM Project Manager and expressed his conviction that he would remain involved in the TEM Project also in the future. He also extended his thanks to the PCO consultant, Mr. Pospisil for his contribution to the Project.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (TEM/WP.295)

6. The agenda of the session, as amended by the Committee, presented in Annex 2 of the report, was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

7. Mr. K. Nemeč (Austria) and Ms. N. Davidescu (Romania) were elected Chairman and Rapporteur of the session, respectively.

REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER (TEM/WP.296)

8. In his report, the Project Manager informed the session about TEM PCO's as well as about his own activities in the reporting period. His report was approved by the session.

REVISION OF THE TEM MASTER PLAN (TEM/WP.297)

9. The document, consisting of 3 parts, was examined by the Committee part-by-part. Each part was introduced by Mr. M. Hantak and the respective details were provided by Mr. P. Pospisil.
10. With respect to Part a) of the document (Preliminary evaluation of countries' responses to the TEM Questionnaire on Revision of the TEM Master Plan), they informed the

Committee that altogether 10 countries, i.e. Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Romania, returned the Questionnaire filled in to the TEM PCO. The decision was taken that the deadline of end of November established for delivery of the remaining Questionnaires would be postponed to 15 January 2009. The TEM PCO will make available the missing Master Plan projects' securization templates A, B1, B2 and C to the new Master Plan Revision countries and will also send to all participating countries the explanation regarding the identification of main routes for performance indicators, accompanied by the first draft map of these proposed routes. The Committee also approved in general the approach to the retrieval of data that would not be available from the Questionnaires, proposed in the document.

11. In the framework of discussion on this topic, Mr. Kielar (Poland) recommended to contact the Eurostat especially with regard to the GDP development in the EU countries up to 2030 and Mr. Urlan (Romania) presented some comments to the Questionnaire summary table of the document, that would be taken into account in its final version.
12. Summarizing the discussion, Mr. Adamantiadis pointed out that there probably would remain some countries belonging to the "data risk area". This area should be identified by the TEM PCO and the UNECE would be then ready to ask them for their deeper involvement through diplomatic channels. With respect of seaports, the EC data and the results of the work of the UNECE Group of experts on hinterland connections to these ports could be made use of. As far as the Freight Villages were concerned, their definition could be found on the UNECE website and for the respective data also Europlatforms should be contacted.
13. The Romanian representatives passed to the Project Manager the templates and maps accompanying the Revision Questionnaire sent to the PCO in advance. Based on their proposal, the Steering Committee approved the section Bacau – Vaslui – Crasna as part of the TEM network.
14. The Committee endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the TEM Master Plan Revision Experts Group Meeting held in Budapest, Hungary on 18 November 2008 as presented by the Project Manager.
15. Upon discussion on Part c) of the document TEM/WP.297 (TEM Master Plan Revision and Follow-up Action Plan for 2009), the Steering Committee approved the plan as presented by the Project Manager, recommending at the same time to hold the meeting of the Revision Expert Group jointly with the TER one, consisting of the common plenary session, followed by separate discussions of road and rail experts. The Austrian delegate expressed the readiness of his Ministry to host that session in spring 2009 in Bad Gastein in Austria.
16. With respect to the proposed TEM and TER Master Plan Revision brochure, Mr. Adamantiadis confirmed the readiness of the UNECE to publish it without any costs to the TEM and TER Projects, provided that it would be included to the UNECE publication plan well in advance.

POSSIBILITIES AND WAYS OF TEM PROJECT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT LINKS

17. The UNECE representatives, Messrs. Adamantiadis and Novak introduced the UNECE-UNESCAP Joint Study on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages (document ECE/TRANS/184) and its conclusions. In the first phase of the EATL project (2003-2007), the TEM and TER Master Plan methodology of projects' prioritization had been successfully implemented. At the High Level Meeting of EATL participating countries held in February 2008, the Joint Declaration was signed, establishing inter alia the Expert Group for the elaboration of the EATL second phase, the next meeting of which would be held in March/April 2009 in Shanghai. Based on the results of the High Level Meeting, the UNECE invited all its member countries to participate in this initiative.
18. The Steering Committee stressed the importance of the Euro-Asian transport linkages for all TEM member countries and expressed its support for the involvement of the TEM in the EATL. It also recommended to the UNECE to consider possibilities of active participation of the TEM Project and its experts in the elaboration of the second EATL project phase, based on the proposals included in the respective Background Paper, examined by the 48th session of the Steering Committee, summarized in the framework of discussion on this item by Mr. Hantak.

TEM FINANCIAL REPORT FOR I. – III. TRIMESTER 2008 (TEM/WP.299)

19. The Committee took note of this financial report on the Project and expressed its satisfaction with the TEM PCO's budget management and administration.
20. Based on the fact that Croatia and Italy had not contributed to the TEM Trust Fund in the last two years, the Steering Committee requested the TEM PCO and the UNECE to send a letter to both Governments, asking them to transfer their pending contributions to the Fund at their earliest convenience.
21. The Steering Committee approved the Project Manager's fee for the year 2008.

PROPOSED TEM SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET TO THE TEM PROJECT BUDGET FOR 2008 (TEM/WP.301)

22. In compliance with the request of the 49th session of the TEM Steering Committee, the Project Manager, in close collaboration with the UNECE, submitted a supplementary budget to the Committee for examination and approval, providing for the exceptional contribution at an equal level of USD 2,500 per country.
23. The Steering Committee approved this supplementary budget and requested the UNECE to prepare special letters to the participating countries, asking both for regular and exceptional Trust Fund contributions as the case may be, explaining at the same time the breakdown of the figure USD 10,000 and dispatch them by the end of December 2008 at the latest.

ATTACHMENT TO THE TEM CO-OPERATION TRUST FUND AGREEMENT FOR THE PROJECT PHASE 2009 – 2012 (TEM/WP.302)

24. As requested by the 49th session of the Steering Committee, the PCO, in close collaboration with the UNECE Transport Division, prepared the draft final Project Document (Attachment to the TEM Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement) covering the next Project phase 2009 – 2012. The document was introduced by the Project Manager with additional explanations provided by Mr. P. Pospisil. They explained that this final draft took into account all the text changes requested by the 49th session of the Committee.
25. In this connection, the representative of Armenia promised to send to the PCO the proposal on the TEM network to be reflected on the final map (Part 3, Annex 1) of the Trust Fund Attachment by the end of December 2008.
26. The revised document, reflecting also the received answers to the self evaluation questionnaire, was endorsed by the Steering Committee session. The Committee asked the UNECE to send it to the Governments of the countries of the participating countries at its earliest convenience.
27. The Romanian delegation stated that according to its national regulations in force in this field, the participation in the next phase (2009 – 2012) of the TEM Project was subject to an official confirmation to the UNECE by the Romanian competent authorities.

TEM BUDGET FOR 2009 (TEM/WP.300)

28. Upon presentation of its draft by the Project Manager, the Steering Committee approved the TEM budget for 2009.

TEM PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2009 (TEM/WP.298)

29. The draft TEM Programme of Work for 2009 was presented and explained objective-by-objective by the TEM Project Manager.
30. Following his answers to the questions raised by the participants, the Committee approved the budget as proposed by the PCO with the understanding that the co-operation with the NETLIPSE project will be added to action No. 4.1.4.
31. The Steering Committee also took the decision that the prioritization of the Work Programme activities would be deleted in the final document.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE TEM PROJECT FINANCES BY UNECE

32. The TEM Project Manager informed the Committee about the pending problems of the PCO caused by closing the TEM Project accounts in Warsaw and by more stringent implementation of UN rules and procedures. He also informed the session that this situation did not make it possible to have the VAT returned by the Polish financial office, so that the potential loss to the Project may amount to about USD 3,000 for the last two years. Despite the letter sent by the Austrian Government represented by the Steering Committee Chairman to the UNECE Executive Secretary, Mr. M. Belka dated 11 October 2007, the Committee expressed its dissatisfaction with the fact that no measures has been taken yet and the criticized situation still persists.

TEM PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

33. The Steering Committee was informed by the representatives of the UNECE about the negative answer of the Slovak Government to the official request to extend the assignment of Mr. M. Hantak as the Project Manager for at least one more year. The participants in the session, expressing their concern about the critical situation regarding the search for the new Project Manager, greatly appreciated the initiative of the UNECE Transport Division to request the Slovak Ministry of Transport and Communications to extend the assignment of Mr. Hantak at least for the interim period as well as the assurance of Ms. Molnar that the UNECE took firm decision to keep the TEM Project operational and backstop it also in the future.
34. In the light of this, the representatives of the participating countries extended their expressions of gratitude to the Slovak Government for making the Project Manager available for such a long period of time. They also expressed their hopes that the Slovak Ministry of Transport and Communications would be in position to respond to the above request of the UNECE for a short extension of Mr. Hantak's assignment positively.

OTHER BUSINESS

35. The TEM Steering Committee addressed to the member countries the request to inform the PCO by end of January 2009 of their readiness to host TEM meetings next year in accordance with the approved TEM Programme of Work for that year. Upon clarification of all locations and timing of the meetings, the PCO will elaborate the list of the TEM 2009 meetings and distribute it to the member countries.
36. Ms. Tanase and Mr. Adamantiadis of the UNECE Transport Division informed the session about the conclusions of recent meetings of the SC.1 and WP.1, in which the process of reshaping their strategies is underway. In this context, synergies should be developed between the TEM and those Working Parties in certain fields of common interest, e.g. in road safety, standards and infrastructure guidelines, in which the TEM could actively participate. The Project Manager confirmed that these activities were included in the TEM Programme of Work for the next Project phase and that a close collaboration in these fields would be beneficial for the TEM Project, too. Mr. Urlan (Romania) proposed in this

connection that the TEM Standards and Recommended Practice should be updated and that SC.1 may support this activity. The Committee took note of the invitation of Ms. Tanase for the TEM representatives to take part in the next meeting of the SC.1 to be held in October 2009, which may be coupled with one of the planned TEM meetings.

37. The Committee took note of the Checklist WP.1 and SC.1 timetable distributed by the UNECE at the session.
38. The Committee examined the document on the TEM Project Self Evaluation of the project phase 2005 – 2008, endorsed it and asked the Project Manager to revise it to reflect the responses of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia to the TEM Project Assessment Questionnaire for the above period, submit the thus revised document to the UNECE and send its copies also to all the TEM National Coordinators. In the Questionnaire, most of the countries expressed their interest in the HEEP co-operation between the American experts and the TEM countries' administrations.
39. The Project Manager informed the session that the PCO successfully finalized the elaboration of the TEMSTAT 2008 maps and distributed their electronic versions to the participants. The printed copy of the map of the respective country will be attached to the report of this Steering Committee session and sent to the National Coordinators by the end of December 2008.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

40. The report on the 50th session of the Steering Committee was adopted.
41. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman extended his thanks to the UNECE and in particular to Mrs. E. Molnar and to the staff of the Transport Division for hosting the session and for its perfect organizational arrangements.

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Annexes: 2