



TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE

TER/SC/118

TER Steering Committee
18th (Special) Session
11-12 February 2004
Budapest, Hungary

ABRIDGED REPORT

1. The 18th (Special) Session of the TER Steering Committee took place in Budapest, Hungary on 11-12 February 2004.
2. The following TER countries attended the meeting: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. Representatives of Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine as observer countries were also present. Representatives of UNECE and TER Project Central Office also attended the meeting.

Election of Officers

3. Upon proposal, Mr. Radoslav Ivanov, representative of Bulgaria was elected Chairman and Mr. Rudolf Koller, representative of Austria was elected Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda

4. The participants to the Steering Committee adopted the agenda of the meeting.

Information on the implementation of TEM-TER Master Plans

5. The representative of the Executing Agency outlined the major elements of the TOR for the TER Master Plan and informed the participants about the stage of implementation of this study.
6. He underlined that the actions foreseen to be implemented until now were fulfilled according to the timing adopted.
7. The paramount importance of the countries' contribution to the successful implementation of the TER Master Plan was strongly outlined.
8. Detailed information was presented to the participants on the developments of the TER Master Plan Meeting of Experts including the time limit – end of April 2004 for the submission of the projects identified according to the Methodology for project

identification prepared by the external consultant. TER Master Plan will cover the following countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey as TER member countries and Belarus, FYROM, Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine as observer countries.

Preliminary List of TER Meetings in 2004

9. TER Project Manager introduced the preliminary list of meetings in 2004 underlining that some dates of the actions foreseen could be changed in accordance with the final discussions taking place with the representatives of the host country of the meeting.

10. Representatives of several countries requested that the dates of meetings once established (as soon as possible) be sent immediately to all the member countries.

11. It was requested to be avoided as much as possible the overlapping of TER meetings with the meetings organised by other international organisations like OSJD, ECE etc.

12. The preliminary list of meetings was distributed to the participants.

Involvement of TER-PCO in the Secretariat work for Corridor VI based on Polish proposal

13. The representative of the Executing Agency recalled this issue discussed also during the previous Steering Committee Session.

14. He also gave information on the latest exchange of letters between UNECE and Polish Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the possible involvement of TER-PCO in the Secretariat work for Corridor VI.

15. From the discussions, to which almost all countries took part it was realised that in principle this issue could be regarded in a positive way although elements related to this issue required additional information as for example personnel needed to implement this job, what actions exactly were required, what financial implications would have to the TER budget etc.

16. Several participants also mentioned that the assessment of such an activity comes at a moment when the staff in TER/PCO was reduced with one person, whose contract expired on 31 December 2003.

17. Facing such difficulties several countries proposed that further clarification on possible support to the TER/PCO from the countries situated along Corridor VI be investigated.

18. It was considered useful that the TER National Co-ordinator for Poland act as liaison person with TER/PCO in order to facilitate the clarification of all above matters.

19. Taking into account above facts, the Steering Committee felt that a possible TER involvement with this work for a trial period could be further explored. The Committee requested the PCO in close co-operation with the Polish National Co-ordinator and the UNECE, to proceed with a detailed assessment of the tasks to be accomplished and the related implications to TER in terms of human and financial resources required to be reported at the next Steering Committee Session.

20. Until then, the PCO was requested to assist TEM with the railway aspects of Corridor VI Secretariat work, at the extent possible, with the understanding that such an assistance would not disturb the TER/PCO's current activities and tasks.

Information on possible TER co-operation with PLANCO Consulting (Germany)

21. The representative of the Executing Agency informed the participants on the exchange of letters between UNECE and PLANCO regarding the implementation of Cards – SouthEast Transport Observatory Project which is under tendering procedures.

22. The Steering Committee considered the matter, in principal, in a very positive way. However, being premature to assess at present the possible co-operation of TER with PLANCO, it requested that in case the latter would be assigned to carry out the project, TER would be ready to offer its co-operation and support for its implementation in terms and conditions that will be mutually agreed upon, subject to prior agreement by the TER member countries.

Status of personnel and selection of personnel for PCO

23. The representative of the Executing Agency informed the participants that the contract of Mr. Romeo Galbenu, Assistant Project Manager in charge with database ended on 31 December 2003.

24. He also informed the participants that the letters inviting the countries to take part in the call for candidates for the position of Assistant Project Manager in charge with database would be sent until the end of February 2004. Good command of IT and GIS mapping was considered a condition for all possible candidates.

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Other Issues

31. Upon request of the representatives of several countries Mr. R. Koller made a presentation of the latest developments in the railway system in Austria and the new structure of Austrian Federal Railways. During the discussions many issues were of great interest because the restructuring process of railways is developing in all TER member countries.

32. The representative of the Executing Agency informed the participants on the latest developments in promoting freight platforms in CEEC. UNECE-TEM and TER are foreseen to play an active role in this process. Eurochambers, Europlatforms and CER applied for support from the European Commission in the implementation of projects in this field.

33. The Steering Committee highly appreciated the work of the staff of the PCO and the excellent performance of the Chairman and Rapporteur, which substantially contributed to the success of the session.

Adoption of the Report

34. The Steering Committee adopted the report.