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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Rail Transport****Seventy-third session**

Geneva, 25–27 November 2019

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**Trans-European Railway project****Information on the Trans-European Railway project  
development****Submitted by the TER Project Manager****I. Objectives of the Project**

1. 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 (ECE) Pan-European infrastructure agreements.

2. Among the various goals of the TER project, the following are of key importance: facilitation and development of coherent and efficient international railway and combined transport system among the Central and Eastern European countries (through the territories of the TER countries and between them and other European countries), contribution in absorbing of an important part of congestion in Central and Eastern Europe and reduction of environmental and safety problems on major international railways of those countries.

**II. Activities in 2018**

3. The TER Steering Committee at the forty-third TER Steering Committee session (Geneva, 27 November 2017) adopted the following activities for implementation in the TER Programme of Work 2018:

## (a) Connectivity

- Participation of international Steering Group Sessions (European Commission (EC), Committee of the Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD), European Union Agency for Railways (EUAR) etc.);
- Preparatory discussions on Phase II of the High-Speed Master Plan Implementation project;

## (b) Visibility

- Activities aimed at increasing the number of TER member countries;
  - Redesign and update of TER webpage;
  - Distribution of the TER info brochure.
- (c) Capacity-Building
- Identification of infrastructure bottlenecks and lobbying for their removal;
  - Initiation of an international Infrastructure Service Comparison;
  - Organization of a TER Workshop.
- (d) Development
- Implementation of the 2011 TER Master Plan Follow-up monitoring;
  - Progress reports on results of Master Plan Revision monitoring and TER backbone network status 2018;
  - Data collection and processing, possible extension of TER system to non-TER countries;
  - Presentation of results of the Master Plan Revision implementation on the UNECE/TER website.
- (e) Management
- Functioning Project Central Office (PCO);
  - Activities related to a new/renewed Host Country Agreement (HCA);
  - Organization of two TER Steering Committee Sessions;
  - Draft a TER Budget and Programme of Work 2018 and 2019.
4. During the forty-fourth TER Steering Committee session (Vienna, 4 and 5 June 2018) the following were discussed and agreed:
- (a) The management focused its efforts on discussing and negotiating with the Governments of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Georgia in order for these countries to become members of the project;
- (b) A draft Terms of Reference on the High-Speed Rail Master Plan Phase 2 was presented and approved by the SC members;
- (c) The print-out TER brochure was presented at the session and distributed among the SC session delegates;
- (d) The TER backbone network is being revised and draft maps were prepared by the consultant that reflect the status of the network in 2017–2018;
- (e) The TER office in Belgrade continues its operation and the host country expressed its willingness to prolong the host country agreement;
- (f) The contract of the Deputy TER Project Manager was finalized and officially signed.
- (g) The TER Workshop on International Cargo Transport – Obstacles and Chances to be held in October 2018 (subsequently postponed to 2019).

### **III. Activities in 2019**

5. The TER Steering Committee at the forty-fifth TER Steering Committee session (Geneva, 20 November 2018) adopted the following activities for implementation in the TER Programme of Work 2019:
- (a) Connectivity
- Participation of international Steering Group Sessions (EC, OSJD, EUAR etc.);

- Preparation of a comprehensive study on Phase II of the High-Speed Rail Master Plan with completion envisaged for the end of 2019;

(b) Visibility

- Activities aimed at increasing the number of TER member countries;
- Redesign and update of TER webpage;
- Updating and Distribution of the TER info brochure.

(c) Capacity-Building

- Identification of infrastructure bottlenecks and lobbying for their removal;
- Initiation of an international Infrastructure Service Comparison;
- Organization of a TER Workshop.

(d) Development

- Implementation of 2011 TER Master Plan Follow-up monitoring;
- Progress reports on results of Master Plan Revision monitoring and TER backbone network status 2019;
- Data collection and processing, possible extension of TER system to non-TER countries;
- Presentation of results of the Master Plan Revision implementation on the ECE/TER website.

(e) Management

- Functioning PCO;
- Activities aimed for a new HCA;
- Organization of two TER Steering Committee Sessions;
- Draft a TER Budget and Programme of Work 2019.

6. During the forty-sixth TER Steering Committee session (Brno, Czech Republic, 24 April 2019) the following were discussed and agreed:

(a) The management focused its efforts on discussing and negotiating with the Governments of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Georgia in order for these countries to become members of the project;

(b) Work was initiated on Phase 2 of the High-Speed Rail Master Plan including discussions and consultations between the consultant and the SC members;

(c) The updated map for the TER brochure was discussed at the session and a new version was suggested to be printed;

(d) The TER backbone network is being revised and draft maps were prepared by the consultant that reflect the status of the network in 2018–2019;

(e) The TER office in Belgrade continues its operation and the host country agreement was extended for two more years (2019–2020);

(f) The TER Workshop on High-Speed Network was held back-to-back with the SC session, acting as an input into the discussions on Phase II of the Master Plan project mentioned above.