



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

**TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
40th session, 17 May 2016
Vienna, Austria**

REPORT

The 40th session of the TER Steering Committee was held on 17 May 2016 in the premises of the ÖBB-Konzernzentrale in Vienna, Austria.

PARTICIPATION

The Member States that participated in the session were: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation and Turkey. Representative of the UNECE Transport Division, TER Project Managers and the UNECE/TER Consultants also attended the session. List of participants is attached (Annex 1).

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The outgoing Chairman, Mr. Ibrahim Halil Cevik, welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and opened the session.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda of the session was adopted as submitted (Annex 2). In this connection, the Committee decided to summarize the decisions reached with regard to the particular items of the agenda in the list of MAIN DECISIONS to be annexed to this report of the session (Annex A).

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The participants in the Steering Committee elected as its officers Mr. Mustafa Kovacevic (Chairman, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Mr. Konstantin Allakhverdyan (Rapporteur, Russian Federation).

3. REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGERS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

1. The Project Managers informed the Steering Committee on developments that took place during the reporting period from November 2015. The Project Management focused its efforts during this period on high level discussions with the respective authorities of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Ukraine in order for these countries to become member states of the project. They further summarized the activities of the TER Project related to the items of the approved agenda and informed the Committee about the current status of Project Managers' contracts and of the setting up of the new TER Project Central Office in Belgrade, Serbia, being in the final phase. The Steering Committee expressed its recognition for their efforts and requested the Project Managers to concentrate on activities directed towards present Members of the TER project first. There are several outstanding issues in this regard to solve. At this stage, the SC should clarify situation within the project – there is no urgent need for additional TER project's Member States.

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 Managers of their efforts to attract countries neighboring to the TER region in order to join it and on their work aimed at strengthening the connectivity of the TER backbone network by making use of established contacts with the European Commission, OSJD and the EATL Project. As soon as the new countries become the TER members, their main rail links will be incorporated into the TER backbone network upon the respective approval of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee decided to support efforts of the Project Managers and requested them to report on the results reached regarding active participation of TER Member States at its next session.

b. High Speed Rail Master Plan;

3. The Steering Committee was informed by the UNECE/TER Consultant, Mr. H. Adelsberger about the status of elaboration of the TER High Speed Master Plan. His report and the related Questionnaire are annexed to this report (Annexes 5 and 6). The Committee especially stressed the need to have the filled in Questionnaires returned to the Consultant by 30 June 2016 and requested the Consultant to proceed expeditiously.

c. Promotion of TER;

4. The Committee decided on the steps and actions to be taken in order to finish and distribute the TER Promotion Brochure, attached as Annex 7 to the report. The final solution of its content and the wording will be discussed by the Steering Committee.

d. Rail Financing;

5. The decisions of the Committee on the matter, aimed at formulation of criteria for selection of the projects and finding the respective financial sources are proposed in the Annex A – MAIN DECISIONS – corresponding to the market needs.

e. Safety at Level Crossings;

6. The Steering Committee was informed by Mr. Kostantinos Alexopoulos, the UNECE Representative on the results of the work of the Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings. The Committee decided that the contingent TER activities related to this topic would be discussed at its next session.

f. Monitoring the Implementation of the TER Master Plan;

7. The Steering Committee requested the National Coordinators to send to the TER PCO by 31 May 2016 the required national reports, as decided by the 39th session.

g. 2015 Status of the TER Backbone Network

8. The Committee requested the TER PCO to submit the final summary report on implementation of the TER Master Plan Revision and on the TER network status to the 41st session of the Steering Committee. For this purpose, the UNECE/TER Consultant, Mr. P. Pospisil, was authorized to distribute to the National Coordinators the draft maps, showing the status of the network as of 1 January 2016 for their comments/corrections.

4. DECISIONS ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT

9. The decisions of the Steering Committee on Host Country Agreement with Serbia, on the status of TER Managers' contracts, on TER 2016 Cost Plan and Budget as well as on the status of the TER Trust Fund contributions are listed under items 4a) to 4d) in Annex A - MAIN DECISIONS.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

10. In the framework of this item of the agenda, the dates and places of the 41st and 42nd sessions of the Steering Committee were discussed and decision was taken to organize the Workshop on “High Speed Lines speed Liplanning to commissioninganning to commissioniks in September 2016.

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11. The details of these decisions are to be found in Annex A - MAIN DECISIONS.

6. ADOPTION OF REPORT AND MAIN DECISIONS

12. The Steering Committee will adopt the report as well as the main decisions of the session via e-mail, after taking into account the comments received.

The Steering Committee extended its thanks to the Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport and to the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) for hosting of the session, to the Project Management for its efficient organization and to the Chairman and Rapporteur for their outstanding services.

Annexes:

- A.) MAIN DECISIONS
- 1.) List of participants
- 2.) Agenda
- 3.) Programme of Work 2016
- 4.) TER Budget 2016
- 5.) Questionnaire for High Speed Master Plan
- 6.) Presentation of Mr. Adelsberger
- 7.) Draft TER Brochure + offers for printing and graphical design
- 8.) Note verbale (UNECE)
- 9.) TER Contributions
- 10.) Draft Agenda of the TER Workshop in September 2016