



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

**TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
42nd Session, 3 - 4 April 2017
Belgrade, Serbia**

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REPORT

The 42nd session of the TER Steering Committee was held on 3 and 4 April 2017 in the premises of the Headquarters of Serbian Railways in Belgrade.

The session was preceded by the official ceremony dedicated to the opening of the TER Project Central Office in Belgrade, in the course of which Mr. Miodrag Poledica State Secretary of the Ministry of Transport of Serbia, handed over the keys of the Office to the TER Project Manager, Mr. Gennady Bessonov, in person.

PARTICIPATION

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

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr. Gennady Bessonov, the TER Project Manager, welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and opened the session.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The participants in the Steering Committee elected as its officers Mr. Igor Princic (Chairman, Slovenia) and Mr. Konstantin Allakhverdyan (Rapporteur, Russian Federation).

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

1. The TER Project Manager informed the Steering Committee on developments that took place during the reporting period from November 2016. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the Government of Serbia for its kind decision to host the TER Project Central Office in Belgrade and introduced Mr. Francesco Dionori, the new UNECE representative replacing Mr. Alexandropoulos as well as Ms. Maria Magdalena Grigore, the new TER National Coordinator of Romania. According to his report, the Project Management focused its efforts during this period inter alia on high level discussions with the respective authorities of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Hungary and Kazakhstan in order for these countries to become member states of the project. His presentation is annexed to this report as its Annex 3.
2. Mr. Andreas Zimmer, the TER Deputy Project Manager, informed the Committee about the involvement of the TER Management in the UNECE in the activities of the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs and about the planned TER events in 2017 and 2018, on the basis of which information the Committee took the respective decisions, reflected below in item 6 ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS. He further summarized the comments received to the draft report on the 41st session of the Steering Committee and presented its final version as well as its final Main Decisions, both amended accordingly.
3. The Steering Committee adopted the final amended versions of the above report and Main Decisions, as presented by Mr. Zimmer.

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

4. The Steering Committee was informed by the Project Managers of their efforts to attract countries neighbouring 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, of support of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division and of established contacts with the OSJD and the EATL Project. To this purpose, the successful Workshop on TER High Speed Lines – from Planning to Commissioning held in Vienna on 18 – 19 October last year represented a valuable contribution.

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

b. High Speed Rail Master Plan;

6. Mr. Adelsberger presented his draft report on the first phase study on TER High Speed Rail Masterplan. The Steering Committee appreciated the document and decided to set a deadline for final comments on 14. April 2017. The final report taking into account the comments will be sent by Mr. Adelsberger by 21. April 2017 to all Steering Committee members. The installment shall be settled immediately afterwards.
The TOR for the elaboration for the second phase study on TER High Speed Rail Masterplan with inputs from our National Coordinators shall be prepared until our forthcoming Steering Committee Session.

c. Programme of Work 2017;

7. Mr. A. Zimmer, the Deputy Project Manager, informed the Committee in detail about the status of implementation of the TER Programme of Work for 2017 and about the accomplishments reached in the reporting period, namely the prioritization of the tasks of the Programme, the pilot project for short distance cross-border interoperability with Serbia and about the planned workshop to be held in October in the Czech Republic (Annex 4).

d. TER Financial Report 2016;

8. The TER Management introduced the document “Report on TER Trust Fund Contributions and Expenditures – Year 2016”, according to which the Fund had as of 31 December 2016 a net balance amounting to USD 834,830.93.
9. The Steering Committee expressed its satisfaction as to the sound financial position of the Project as well as its appreciation of the related activities of the Project Management and approved the 2016 financial report.

e. TER brochure;

10. The Steering Committee was informed by the Project Manager about the present status of the production of the brochure,

documented by its recent colour draft version, presented to the members of the Steering Committee, which was recommended by them for printing and distribution without any additional comments.

f. *Monitoring the Implementation of the TER Master Plan Revision in 2016;*

11. The Steering Committee was informed that the final 2016 Progress Report on the Results of Monitoring of the TER Master Plan Implementation, updated on the basis of the comments received from the member countries after the 41st session of the Steering Committee, was sent to all National Coordinators on 11 January this year.
12. The Progress report on implementation of the Master Plan in 2017 will be prepared in the second half of this year on the basis of the national data (templates) to be submitted by the National Coordinators by 31 May 2017 in line with the decision of the 41st SC session. For this purpose, the PCO will send to the National Coordinators the respective blank templates by the end of April.

g. *2015 Status of the TER Backbone Network*

13. The final 2016 TER backbone network status data and maps were also conveyed to the National Coordinators on 11 January 2017. Data for the 2017 status report and the map should be delivered by the countries by 31 May this year according to the decision of the last session of the Steering Committee.
14. The full-fledged comprehensive report on the status of the TER backbone network as of 1 January 2017, based on the above national reports and maps as well as on the EU rail data as proposed by the UNECE representative as approved by the 41st session of the Committee and including also the forecasted development of the network links in the coming 5 years, will be prepared in the second half of this year.
15. The Steering Committee requested the Project Managers to elaborate the draft TOR for the Consultant's work in 2017 and 2018 and to submit it for comments to the UNECE and all National Coordinators by the end of June 2017.

4. DECISIONS ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT

a. *Host country agreement with Serbia for 2017 – 2018*

16. The UNECE Informed the Steering Committee about the signed

Agreement between the Government of Serbia and the United Nations on the Trans-European Railway Project Central Office in Belgrade.

b. TER Managers contracts

17. All contracts are signed finally.

c. TER Cost Plan and 2017 Budget – statement

18. Mr. Andreas Zimmer informed the Committee on the actual status of the TER cost plan for 2017.

d. Status of TER Trust Fund Contributions

19. Mr. Nenad Nikolic, the UNECE Regional Adviser, reported on the 2017 contributions to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund. UNECE has sent the necessary invoices to TER coordinators.

20. The Steering Committee asked the National Coordinators of the remaining countries to convey to the responsible authorities the request to settle the 2017 Trust Fund obligations as soon as possible, but by the end of the year at the latest.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The UIC – TCDD High Speed Workshop was postponed from July 2017 to May 2018. Our Turkish Coordinator will keep us informed.

The Romanian Ministry of Transport made a very interesting and comprehensive presentation on Romanian Transport Strategy which was greatly appreciated by the Committee. This presentation will be published on TER homepage to have easier access to it.

Mr. Francesco Dionori informed the Committee about the latest developments and agreements being prepared in the Commissions within UNECE.

Mr. Nenad Nikolic informed the Committee about the HCA with Serbia and all processes started in order to have the PCO registered in Belgrade officially. The years 2017 and 2018 are covered by this agreement.

Mr. Allakhverdyan informed the Committee about Mr. Stolyarov's change. Now his contacts should be deleted by PCO. The Committee expressed its gratefulness for his efforts to our project.

6. ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS

21. The Steering Committee adopted the following main decisions:

- The reports presented by the Project Management on the Project activities in the reporting period was taken note of and the Committee expressed its satisfaction with the results achieved;
- The amended version of the report on its 41st session and its Main Decisions were adopted.
- The "TER High Speed Rail Masterplan Study Phase 1" report was appreciated by the Steering Committee and a final deadline for all comments was fixed on 14. April 2017. Before submitting the final report, a written answer to the comments of Steering Committee will be sent to Committee by Mr. Adelsberger. The final document incorporating the comments made will be sent out by consultant on 21. April 2017. A week after having received the final report the Steering Committee decides on written procedure on approval of the submitted document. The payment shall be executed following the approval of the final report. The TOR for the second phase study will be prepared by TER Management well before next Steering Committee Session. The decision on adoption of TOR will be taken in written form by member countries prior to our forthcoming TER SC Session.
- The report on TER Trust Fund Contributions and Expenditures in 2016 was approved;
- The draft version of the TER brochure, introduced to the session, was approved as amended for printing and distribution. This brochure will be available also on TER homepage.
- The National Coordinators were requested to send to the TER PCO by 31 May 2017 the required national reports and data,

as decided by the 41st session including the information about the planned development of backbone network links in the coming 5 years;

- The reports on the results of monitoring of the TER Master Plan implementation in 2016 and on the TER backbone network status as of 1 January 2017 would be submitted to the 43rd session of the Committee;

- The Steering Committee requested the Project Managers to elaborate the draft TOR for the Consultant's work regarding the TER Network Report 2017 and to submit it to the SC for comments and approval by the end of June 2017.

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- The TER Workshop on International Cargo Transport – Obstacles and Chances will be held in Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic) in October this year.
- The 43rd session of the Committee will take place in Geneva (tentative in last week of November 2017) back to back with SC.2 Session.
- The proposals of the member countries for hosting the 44th session of the Committee in 2018 to be sent to the TER PCO by the end of July this year, would be greatly appreciated.
- The Project Management was requested to send the draft report of the session to the National Coordinators for comments at its earliest convenience.

22. The Committee expressed its extreme gratitude to the Serbian Government, its Ministry of Transport and the Serbian Railways for hosting the session in Belgrade. It extended special thanks to Ms. Ivana Bozic, the Serbian TER National Coordinator and to her collaborators for the perfect organization of the session and kind hospitality offered to its participants. The Committee also highly appreciated the excellent performance of the Chairman and the Rapporteur, which substantially contributed to the success of the session.

Annexes: