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**TRANS-EUROPEAN NORTH-SOUTH MOTORWAY (TEM)
STEERING COMMITTEE
Forty-fifth Session
12 – 14 June 2006, Bucharest, Romania**

R E P O R T

PARTICIPATION

1. The forty-fifth session of the TEM Steering Committee took place in Bucharest, Romania on 12-14 June 2006. Representatives of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey participated in the session. The Director of the Partners for Roads Programme of the Dutch Government, as well as the representative of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the TEM Project Manager also took part. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to the report.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. Mr. M. Hantak, TEM Project Manager, opened the session welcoming the participants and thanking the Romanian organizers for their excellent preparations. He passed the floor to Mr. Liviu Damboiu, Director General of the National Company of Motorways and National Roads.
3. On behalf of the Romanian Government, Mr. Damboiu welcomed the representatives of the TEM member countries as well as Mr. Adamantiadis, UNECE Regional Adviser, and Mr. Goppel, Partner for Roads Director. In his opening address he briefly introduced the expressway and motorways network of his country and plans for its development in the future. He wished all participants of the session a lot of success and a pleasant stay in Bucharest.
4. Mr. Iuga, TEM National Coordinator of Romania, welcomed the participants and briefly informed the meeting about his country and its roads network.

5. In his address, Mr. Michalis Adamantiadis, Regional Adviser, UNECE Transport Division, thanked the Romanian Government and the National Company of Motorways and National Roads for hosting the meeting. He conveyed to the participants the greetings from Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer, Director of the Transport Division, UNECE. He expressed the appreciation of the Executing Agency on the progress of the TEM Project and stressed the importance of the TEM Master Plan work, as well as of the positive evaluation on its results from the countries concerned, the Inland Transport Committee, the European Commission and OSCE. Mr. Adamantiadis underlined that the work is not finished yet and that the follow-up actions aiming at monitoring the implementation should be a major task for the project in the future.
6. Furthermore, he informed the session that the membership is increasing with the accession of three new member countries. He reported that Armenia already signed the TEM Trust Fund Cooperation Agreement in December 2005, and that Azerbaijan's signature of the TEM Trust Fund is forthcoming. Furthermore, he mentioned that following the request of the Slovenian Government for accession to the TEM project and the successful completion of the formal procedures according to Article XII of the TEM Trust Fund Agreement, Slovenia is also expected to sign the Agreement within the forthcoming weeks.
7. Finally, he drew the attention of the participants to the difficult staff situation of the TEM PCO in Warsaw and reiterated the UNECE request addressed to all TEM countries to consider again the possibility of nominating their candidates for the post of Deputy Project Manager and Assistant Project Manager, positions which have been vacant for quite some time.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (TEM/WP.262)

8. The provisional agenda of the session, presented in Annex 2 of the report, was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

9. Mr. M. Iuga (Romania) and Mr. K. Nemeč (Austria) were elected Chairman and Rapporteur of the session, respectively.

REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER (TEM/WP.263)

10. Introducing his report, the Project Manager pointed out that all the activities in the reporting period from 7 of December 2005 have been carried out in conformity with the TEM Programme of Work for 2005 and 2006 (document TEM/WP.249 and 259). He continued with a detailed description of the international activities and contacts of the Project, commencing with the very close co-operation with the UNECE, especially with regard to the promotion of the TEM Master Plan and its follow-up actions.

11. The Project Manager informed the meeting of his participation in the 68th session of the Inland Transport Committee held in Geneva in February 2006, where he delivered brief information about TEM activities in the year 2005, focused on the implementation of the TEM Master Plan. The Project Manager also attended the UNECE Working Party on Transport Statistics on 7 – 8 June 2006 in Geneva.
12. He continued his report presenting the outcomes of the TEMSTAT data collection and mapping meeting, held in Prague, Czech Republic, on 16 – 17 March 2006, and of the TEM/HEEP 2006 Area V Annual Meeting which took place in Wisla, Poland, on 15 – 17 May 2006.
13. He further reported on a meeting held in Brussels on 1 February 2006, organized by the EC DG-TREN with UNECE Transport Division Director, Regional Adviser, UNECE as well as the TEM and TER Project Managers, focused on implementation of the Master Plan and the recommendations of the High Level Group.
14. The Project Manager then summarized the result of collaboration with the TER Project Central Office in Budapest, regarding especially the co-ordination of the works on related Master Plan and its follow-up activities as well as on the monitoring of development of Pan-European Transport Corridors.
15. He informed the session that the PCO continued its duties as the secretariat of the Corridor VI including, participation in the common meeting of all Corridor Secretariats in Vienna on 12 – 13 January 2006; in local inspection of the part of PETC VI between Bielsko-Biala, Poland and Lipnik, Czech Republic, in May 2006; and the organization of the Steering Committee meeting, in Graz, Austria, 1 – 2 June 2006. He also reported on the outcome of his participation in the 9th meeting of the Corridors and Areas Co-ordinators Group, held in Brussels on 7 March 2006.
16. Finally, he reported on continuing collaboration on the UNECE TEM project and Partners for Roads, a Dutch Initiative in the field of road infrastructure including the participation of the TEM Project Manager in the “Europe Developing Together” Seminar in Amsterdam, Netherlands, 5 April 2006, and in the 3rd Conference on Roads and Regional Development in Eger, Hungary, 29 – 31 May 2006.
17. In the framework of the discussion on the Project Manager report, Mr. Adamantiadis (UNECE) expressed his appreciation for the excellent work done by the TEM PCO, and the Project Manager during the reporting period. He also highly evaluated the contribution of Mr. P. Pospisil, former Deputy Project Manager and consultant of the TEM PCO at present.
18. A discussion was initiated by the Romanian and Austrian representatives on the extension of the TEM network towards the east.
19. The Austrian delegate stressed the importance of the Ukraine as well as other neighbouring countries in Eastern and South Eastern Europe to accede the TEM Project as their accession would ensure the continuity of the TEM Network and would facilitate the international road transport in the region. Similar interest was expressed for the accession of Estonia and Latvia.

20. Mr. Adamantiadis informed the Steering Committee on a workshop organized by the UNECE Transport Division in Thessaloniki, Greece, in December 2005. This workshop was aimed at examining the recent developments of the transport infrastructure and border crossings in South-Eastern Europe. Experts from five countries from the region, including non-TEM member countries, attended the workshop. Participating experts from non-TEM member countries expressed interest on the TEM Project and promised to take all necessary actions that their countries be informed of the importance of such a membership in order to consider joining the TEM Project and taking part in the follow-up of the Master Plan.
21. The forthcoming accession of Slovenia to the TEM Project was welcomed by the Steering Committee.
22. The Steering Committee noted with satisfaction the report of the Project Manager, endorsed his report and expressed its appreciation for the excellent results during reporting period.

REPORT ON THE TEM MASTER PLAN FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES (TEM/WP.264)

23. The TEM Project Manager presented the report of the TEM Master Plan Follow-up Activities. He introduced the background and objectives for the implementation of the related activities, the intended goals, expected achievements as described in attached Annexes.
24. Explaining the content of each individual Annex, he underlined that in the course of the first five months of this year a number of activities have been implemented. The attached updated 2006 follow-up timetable reflect the revised plan. He also stressed the importance of filling in by the involved countries of the Uniform Questionnaire for Monitoring the Master Plan's implementation. Finally he informed the meeting of the readiness of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) to support financially part of the implementation of the follow-up activities of the TEM Master Plan focusing on ways to secure funding for the implementation of identified by the Master Plan road priority projects.
25. Mr. Adamantiadis provided further information to the session on the consultations between the UNECE and the TEM and TER PCOs with the EC DG-TREN on the future implementation of the Master Plan and the recommendations of the High Level Group chaired by Ms. de Palacio, held in Brussels on 1 February 2006. Among the main results of the meeting, he stressed, the joint understanding about the complementarity of the two exercises, the need for closer cooperation in the follow-up actions, and the need for a comparison of the identified by the Master Plan backbone networks with the five axes proposed by the High Level Group, as well as with the decision 884/2004/EC and the legal commitments from the accession treaties of the EU member countries involved in the Master Plan.
26. He furthermore informed the session that the Master Plan was presented to the 68th session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC), held in Geneva on 7 – 9 February 2006, and that an advance copy of the final report of the Master Plan was distributed to the participants of the ITC, as well as to the EC DG-TREN.

27. He reported that the new project proposal for the “facilitation of the implementation of the TEM/TER Master Plan” to be implemented over the period 2007-2008 was submitted by the UNECE to the 14th OSCE Economic Forum, held on 22 – 24 May 2006 in Prague, Czech Republic, to be considered for possible funding. On this occasion, 150 copies of the final publication of the Master Plan were distributed to the participants of the Forum, and that in addition 200 copies were sent separately to TEM and TER PCOs respectively.
28. Finally, he informed the session on the follow-up actions being planned by the UNECE in supporting the implementation of the Master Plan, including formal distribution of the publication to the 21 countries involved, issuing of a press release, and organizing a special event aimed at assisting concerned countries to identify possible funding options for the implementation of priority projects for which funding is not secured.
29. (a) At the proposal of the Romanian delegation, supported by the Bulgarian delegation the link Craiova – Calafat – Vidin – Sofia (located on Pan-European Transport Corridor no. 4 and a long with one of the main priority axes/projects identified by the High Level Group 2 on “Networks for Peace and Development”) was approved to be included to TEM Network.

(b) A link Vestem – Fagaras (a stretch totally on Romania’s territory between Sibiu and Brasov) was also approved by the Steering Committee to be included to TEM Network, at the proposal of the Romanian delegation.
These two new projects shall be assessed through the future activities related to the TEM Master Plan.
30. The Steering Committee adopted the TEM Master Plan Follow up for 2006 reflected in document TEM/WP.264, as amended.

TEM MASTER PLAN BACKBONE NETWORK VIS-À-VIS THE EU TRANS-EUROPEAN ROAD NETWORK AND PRIORITY PROJECTS (TEM/WP.265)

31. The TEM Project Manager presented his report on the results of the comparison of the TEM Backbone network and priority projects identified in the TEM Master Plan with the EU trans-European Transport network (Roads) and the High Level Group Multimodal axes as well as the accession treaties of the EU member countries involved in the Master Plan.
32. In the course of the presentation of this document the delegate from Slovakia stressed the importance of the elaborated network comparison and thanked the Project Manager and everybody involved for their excellent.
33. The Steering Committee agreed that the delegates should submit their comments to this document by end of July 2006 at the latest and that the PCO with the support of the consultant would introduce appropriate amendments to the document and the annexed maps, with a view that this document be communicated to the EC DG TREN and the UNECE WP.5 and SC.1, by the first week of September 2006.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2005 (TEM/WP.266)

34. The Project Manager presented the financial report for 2005 and explained in detail its content.
35. The Steering Committee discussed the report. Due to the fact that the Trust Fund Contribution of US\$ 7,500 has not been raised since 1991 and unforeseen expenditures arise for the implementation of the follow-up activities of the Master Plan cannot be met by the existing budget of 2006, the Steering Committee requested the UNECE, in close cooperation with the TEM PCO, to submit a supplementary budget to the participating Governments at the next Steering Committee, showing the further financing that will be necessary, for discussion and decision as appropriate.
36. The Steering Committee welcomed the readiness of the IRU to support part of the follow-up work of the implementation of the Master Plan by a contribution of CHF 20,000 and requested the UNECE and the PCO to take all necessary steps in order to ensure the receipt of the IRU contribution and the eventual elaboration of the work on the basis of the tasks to be agreed upon with the IRU.

TEM STATUS AS OF 1 JANUARY 2006 (TEM/WP.267)

37. The Project Manager reported on the TEM status as of 1.1.2006. The members of the Steering Committee made some comments, which were noted by the Project Manager, and requested him to introduce the relevant corrections to a new version of this document in due course.

TEM PCO STAFF

38. The Project Manager informed the Steering Committee of the difficult staff situation at the PCO in Warsaw deriving from the non reaction of member countries in nominating their candidates for the post of Deputy Project Manager and Assistant Project Manager, positions which have been vacant for quite some time.
39. The Steering Committee took note of the situation and strongly encouraged participating member Governments to consider possible nominations for covering these posts.

OTHER BUSINESS

40. The representative of the UNECE informed the Steering Committee of a proposal made by the International Road Federation (IRF) for a cooperation agreement with UNECE and proposed that such a cooperation could be considered useful in the framework of the TEM Project in the form of a MoU similar to that established with IRU, without any legal or financial implications for the TEM Project.
41. The Steering Committee requested the UNECE in close cooperation with the TEM PCO and the IRF, to draft such an Agreement to be considered by it at its next session.

42. The Project Manager informed the Steering Committee on some changes within the UN system affecting substantially the TEM Project financial procedures. These include, possible closing of the TEM Bank accounts in Warsaw, more stringent payment procedures, involvement of UNOG Finance Dept., UNDP Warsaw office, etc. However, it was clarified that all efforts are made that these changes will not put into jeopardy the smooth continuation of the Project Activities.
43. The Steering Committee expressed concern about these developments and requested the Project Manager and the UNECE to present at its next session the final arrangements made for the solution of the problem.
44. In order to maximize the effective use of limited resources, the TEM Project Central Office normally arranges at negotiated rates for full board and lodging (i.e. meals and accommodation) for participants attending TEM activities (workshops, seminars, round-table, meetings, etc.). Due to rising costs of travel and unchanged level of funding available and to streamline the procedure for payment of the DSA portion for (incidental) expenses, the TEM Steering Committee has agreed that payment to the participants for the incidental expenses be established at the fixed amount of US\$ 20 per day.
45. The Project Manager informed the Session that the International HEEP Conference will take place in the USA on 10-14 September 2006, the invitation to which will be distributed by the end of this month.
46. In this connection the Project Manager asked for the submission of proposals to host the 2007 HEEP Area V Annual Meeting as the decision on its venue has to be taken by the end of August this year at the latest.
47. The participants appreciated the presentation of Mr. M. Goppel, Partners for Roads Programme, now cooperating with 11 Central and South-Eastern European countries from which 9 are also TEM member countries.
48. The 46th Session of the Steering Committee will be held in Geneva in the week starting with December 4th, depending on the availability of an appropriate conference room at the Palais des Nations.
49. The Steering Committee extended its warmest thanks to the Romanian Government for hosting the session in Bucharest in excellent conditions to the head of the organizational team, Ms. G. Ionescu and Mr. M. Iuga, Romanian TEM National Coordinator, for the support and assistance provided to the delegates during the whole session as well as to the Chairman and Rapporteur for their excellent performance.
50. The report on the 45th session of the Steering Committee was adopted.

Annexes: 2