



RESTRICTED
TEM/55
6 December 2006
ENGLISH ONLY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

TRANS-EUROPEAN NORTH-SOUTH MOTORWAY (TEM)

Steering Committee

Forty-sixth Session

4 - 6 December 2006, Geneva, Switzerland

REPORT

PARTICIPATION

1. The forty-sixth session of the TEM Steering Committee took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 4-6 December 2006. Representatives of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey participated in the session. The Director of the Partners for Roads Programme of the Dutch Government, as well as the Director of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Transport Division, the Chief of the Transport and Infrastructure Development Section, the TEM Project Manager and the TEM PCO consultant also took part. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to the report.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

- 2. Mr. M. Iuga, the outgoing Chairman, opened the session and passed the floor to Mr. J. Capel Ferrer, Director of the UNECE Transport Division.
- 3. Mr. J. Capel Ferrer welcomed the participants including the representative of Slovenia as the new TEM member country. He highly appreciated the progress reached by the TEM Project, mentioning especially the Master Plan and its follow-up activity including the comparison of the TEM backbone network with the EU Trans-European transport network (roads) and the High Level Group multimodal axes. He stressed that the TEM achievements and its growing importance are also reflected by the request of the WP.5 to strengthen its collaboration with the TEM Project. On the other hand, the successes reached are at the same time accompanied by new challenges caused by the growing international traffic, needs of coordinated planning of the infrastructure development as well as by the European integration and globalization in general. He also mentioned the urgent need to nominate the new TEM Deputy Project Manager, which post has been vacant for almost two years and informed the session about the appointment of Mr. M. Adamantiadis as the Chief of the Transport Division's Transport and Infrastructure Section. The TOR for his successor as the Regional Advisor will be made public on the UNECE website

soon. Concluding his address, he extended his thanks to Mr. M. Hantak for his excellent performance as the Project Manager, to Mr. P. Pospisil for his assistance to the TEM PCO. He also thanked the Slovak Government for its kind offer to host the TER Project Central Office in Bratislava and wished the session full success.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (TEM/WP.268)

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. Mr. M. Arman (Turkey) and Mrs. J. Florian (Hungary) were elected Chairman and Rapporteur of the session, respectively.

REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER (TEM/WP.269)

- 6. Introducing his report, the Project Manager stressed that the very close co-operation of the TEM Project Central Office with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and especially with its Transport Division went on and further intensified. First of all, the UNECE continued its support and backstopping with regard to the promotion of the TEM Master Plan and its follow-up activities. In the framework of this co-operation, the Project Manager took part in the sessions of the UNECE Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) and of the UNECE Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1), held in Geneva on 14-15 September and on 17-19 October 2006, respectively, delivering at the latter one an information about the TEM Project and the TEM Master Plan follow-up activities.
- 7. Reporting on the Project's own activities, he mentioned the workshop on the TEM Master Plan Forecasting Methodology held in Bratislava, Slovakia on 22-23 June 2006, as well as the workshop on TEM Master Plan development and establishment of priorities on its backbone network held on 9-10 November 2006 in Budapest, Hungary, in which representatives of nine TEM member countries took part.
- 8. The Project Manager, as the Director of the TEM/HEEP Area V, together with the representatives of interested Area V countries attended the HEEP 2006 International Conference held in Williamsburg, Virginia, USA on 10-14 September 2006 and also participated in the 1st Polish Road Congress in Warsaw, Poland on 4-5 October 2006.
- 9. In the reporting period, the collaboration with the TER Project Central Office in Budapest continued. It has concentrated on the administration of both Projects, on the possibilities of monitoring the development of Pan-European Transport Corridors (PETC) and especially on promotion of the TEM and TER Master Plans and their implementation.
- 10. In this period, also the involvement of the TEM PCO in the monitoring of development of Pan-European Transport Corridors went on and was manifested inter alia by the presence of the TEM Project Manager in the meeting of the Steering Committee of Corridor VI on behalf of its Secretariat, held in Ostrava, Czech Republic on 13 November 2006.

- 11. Finally, on invitation of the Dutch organizers (Partners for Roads), the Project Manager took part in the seminar "Best Practice on Dynamic Traffic Management" in Utrecht, the Netherlands on 16-17 November this year, introducing there the TEM Master Plan results and its follow-up activities.
- 12. Mr. M. Adamantiadis extended his thanks to Mr. M. Hantak and his collaborators for the results achieved and confirmed the firm intention of the UNECE to promote further the TEM and TER Projects. In this connection, he underlined the recent positive reactions of the OSCE Economic Forum in Prague and its Economic and Environmental Sub-committee in Vienna to the UNECE proposal on the implementation of the TEM and TER Master Plan activities as well as the higher appreciation of both Projects of the Expert Group Meeting on Development of Euro-Asian links held in Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 13. Mr. J. Capel Ferrer informed the session about the forthcoming 60th session of the UNECE, which will provide the opportunity to promote the TEM and TER Master Plan on a very high level.
- 14. The report of the Project Manager was approved by the session.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEM MASTER PLAN (TEM/WP.270)

- 15. The document, consisting of 4 parts, was examined by the Committee part-by-part. Each part was introduced by Mr. M. Hantak and the respective details were provided by Mr. P. Pospisil.
- 16. Upon the presentation of the preliminary results of the TEM Master Plan 2006 monitoring and establishment of priorities, Mr. M. Adamantiadis expressed his opinion that the criteria used were pertinent and it was not necessary to go further and seek other ones. He furthermore stressed that the classification of 173 projects, out of a total of 319, as priority I for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the TEM Master Plan, representing a 54% of all the TEM projects identified in the Master Plan, was a good result and suggested that this selection be correlated with the values of their implementation costs as well as with an indication of which part of them and for which total values funding is secured.
- 17. Mr. M. Urlan (Romania) drew the attention of the session to the fact that the GDP growth data predicted in the Master Plan did not correspond to the real economic development in his country, which was much faster. In Romania, the new strategy for transport infrastructure development has been approved, described in the letter sent by the Romanian TEM National Coordinator to the TEM PCO on 17 November 2006. These facts should be taken into account in the course of the Master Plan follow-up activities and in its review.
- 18. Mr. P. Barek (Slovakia) supported the idea that the backbone network concept could not be taken as static, mentioning practical examples of recent proposed infrastructure strategy changes in Poland (Bialystok-Rzeszov) and in the Czech Republic (Ostrava-Slovak border).
- 19. Mr. M. Arman (Turkey) explained on real figures the considerable differences between the Master Plan GDP predictions (lower) and the real figures for the last four years (higher -25% GDP increase).

- 20. Commenting on the second part of the document TEM/WP.270 (Comparison of the backbone network vis-à-vis the High Level Group Priority axes and the legal commitments of EU member and acceding countries), Mr. K. Nemec (Austria) declared that the inclusion of the section Salzburg-Villach-Karawanken tunnel to the Master Plan backbone network may not represent any problem should Slovenia take the same position.
- 21. Mr. M. Urlan explained that the proposed insertion of the section Drobeta Turnu Severin-Calafat cannot be taken into account, since this section was not part of the TEM network yet. He also stressed the need to add to the backbone network the link Bors-Oradea-Cluj Napoca-Brasov-Ploesti for the reasons stated in the above-mentioned letter to the PCO of 17 November 2006.
- 22. Mr. M. Adamantiadis proposed that the map in Annex 7 of the document should be made compatible to Annex 2 by adding the parts at the section of the HLG axes not part of the TEM Master Plan backbone network. He also drew the attention of the PCO to the mistake in Annex 7 (Section Sivas-Gaziantep in Turkey needs to be deleted).
- 23. Mr. M. Arman (Turkey) pointed out that the HLG multimodal axes do not correspond fully to his country's needs, especially with regard to its western part which is not properly served by these axes. He also expressed his reservation to the HLG axes connection from Kars to Armenia, since this connection did not exist and he informed the session of the TINA study for Turkey now in elaboration to be available in January 2007.
- 24. Mr. M. Adamantiadis, summarizing the results of the discussion to this item, expressed his satisfaction with the document which could be used as the valuable input to the High Level Group follow-up activity. He also stressed the need to have the final document on networks comparison available by the end of January 2007 for the 69th session of the ITC.
- 25. In this connection, Mr. M. Hantak proposed as the deadline for delivery of additional comments and/or proposals 31 December 2006, which proposal was accepted.
- 26. Upon the introduction of the third part of this item of agenda, Mr. M. Urlan (Romania) proposed not to restrict the reporting on the Master Plan projects' implementation and questionnaires to classes 1-3, but to include also the projects of the fourth class since most of them have been assigned in category IV due to lack of data. Mr. Adamantiadis supported the proposal. He also mentioned and recommended the necessity to elaborate a uniform progress report for TEM and TER Master Plan. The respective uniform questionnaires are requested to be sent the TEM countries to the PCO by the end of February 2007.
- 27. On the occasion of the opening the examination of the last part of the document TEM/WP.270, the TEM Project Manager distributed to the participants the TEMSTAT 2006 maps of their countries; the remaining copies not yet printed will be sent by him to the National Coordinators by mail.
- 28. The draft TEM Master Plan Follow-up Action Plan for 2007 was presented item-by-item by Messrs. M. Hantak and P. Pospisil.
- 29. Opening the discussion on the Action Plan, Mr. M. Adamantiadis evaluated it as well structured and including all the activities which were needed to keep the follow-up momentum started in 2006. In order to facilitate the conveyance of the Master Plan follow-up missing data

from the non-TEM countries, he suggested that a letter be sent by the UNECE Executive Secretary to the responsible Ministers of those countries well in advance before the start of data collection. He also expressed his opinion, that the TEM Master Plan follow-up brochure should be ready before the end of 2007.

- 30. He further informed the session about the present status regarding the IRU Master Plan follow-up contribution envisaged. He proposed that in the framework of drafting the 2008 TEM budget, the exceptional contributions of the member Governments related to the TEM Master Plan could be foreseen.
- 31. With respect to the funding securisation activity to be elaborated by the independent consultant, Mr. M. Hantak confirmed that it depended fully on the IRU contribution. In case this contribution would not become available, its scope should be reduced accordingly.
- 32. Mr. M. Urlan (Romania) presented comments to the distributed 2006 TEMSTAT map of his country regarding the TEM network between Cernavoda-Constanta and Ploesti-Buzau. He also drew the attention of the PCO to the revised TEM status data of his country and suggested that a revision of the TEM Standards and Recommended Practice should be included in the TEM Programme of Work in future.
- 33. This suggestion was supported by Messrs. M. Adamantiadis, Mr. Hantak and P. Barek, according to the views of which such an activity should be commenced only after 2008.
- 34. Mr. M. Arman (Turkey) stressed the importance of the elaboration of comparison of the AGR and Master Plan backbone networks and recommended that it should be elaborated as soon as possible.
- 35. Recalling the methodological aspects of the TEM Master Plan bottlenecks and missing links approach, Mr. M. Adamantiadis informed the participants that the WP.5 decided to review its 1994 document dealing, inter alia, with the basic motorway and road capacity criteria and hired the international consultant for technical and scientific backstopping of the works. The informal meeting to start the process will be held on 15 January 2007 at Geneva and the involvement of experts of the PCO and/or TEM countries would be greatly welcomed.

STRENGTHENING CO-OPERATION WITH SELECTED SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE UNECE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

36. Mr. M. Adamantiadis, while introducing this item underlined the fact that the very positive results of the TEM and TER projects and in particular those of the Master Plan raised the interest of other bodies and fora, among them also of the Inland Transport Committee's SC.1 and WP.5. Based on the recent positive results of the TER Project in organizing the joint activities, it is recommendable to focus on organizing the back-to-back events which may deal with the topics of common interest of the TEM Project and the SC.1 and/or WP.5. The Steering Committee may wish to encourage such joint activities and consider concrete proposals for such workshops and studies. The Steering Committee welcomed the proposal of WP.5 and requested the Project Manager to prepare a proposal for discussion at its next session.

TEM PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2007 (TEM/WP.271)

- 37. The draft TEM Programme of Work for 2007 was presented and explained item-by-item by the TEM Project Manager.
- 38. Mr. M. Goppel (The Netherlands) thanked the Steering Committee for the invitation to attend its session and described the activities of the Dutch Government's programme "Partners for Roads" which were in the past implemented mostly on the bilateral basis. In the last 2 years, this approach has been changed in favour of the multilateral transfer of know-how. In this context, he informed the session about the Partners for Roads plans for 2007, which envisaged the participation of the EU member and candidate countries and also of the other countries involved via the TEM Project as well. He also confirmed that the activities in the framework of this programme would continue in the years to come at least until the year 2010.
- 39. Mr. M. Hantak and Mrs. G. Ionescu welcomed the information provided by Mr. Goppel and shared with the members of the Committee their high appreciation of the results and benefits of the Partners for Roads Programme. Mr. M. Arman informed the session about an agreement signed recently between the Netherlands and Turkey at the Ministers' level, determining the future co-operation in the fields of safe road design, cost-benefit analysis, tunnels safety and asset management.

TEM FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 2006

- 40. The Project Manager provided detailed explanation on the report, which was based on the TEM 2006 Budget, approved by the Forty-Fifth Session of the Steering Committee. According to this report, the total TEM Trust Fund funds originating from the member and associate member countries contributions and available for the Project in this period, represented US\$ 146,400.76.
- 41. By 30 September 2006, all TEM member and associate member countries with the exception of Armenia and Croatia (Croatia in 2006 paid arrear for 2005), fulfilled their obligations towards the Fund. The net expenditures of the TEM Project in the period January-September 2006 covered from the Trust Fund (member countries) resources, amounted to US\$ 50,477.81. Therefore, resulting total TEM Trust Fund balance as at 30 September 2006 amounted to US\$ 89,360.83.
- 42. The Steering Committee approved the Project Manager's fee for the year 2006.

PROPOSED TEM SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET TO THE TEM PROJECT BUDGET FOR 2006

- 43. In compliance with the request of the 45th session of the TEM Steering Committee (paragraph 35 of the report on the session), the TEM Project Manager in close collaboration with the UNECE, submitted a supplementary budget to the Committee for examination and approval.
- 44. Since the annual contribution of participating Governments placed at the disposal of the United Nations in 2006 is insufficient to meet the costs of the TEM Project, especially those related to the TEM Master Plan follow-up activities, this supplementary budget provides for the exceptional contribution at an equal level of US\$ 2,500 per country.

45. The Steering Committee approved the supplementary budget and requested the Project Manager and UNECE to arrange for special letters to be sent to the participating countries, asking both for regular and exceptional Trust Fund contributions and dispatch them as soon as possible, but by mid-December at the latest.

TEM BUDGET FOR 2007 (TEM/WP.273)

- 46. Introducing the draft budget for 2007, the Project Manager explained that it was based on the assumption that the total Project funds next year would amount to US\$ 119,500 not including the supplementary contribution dealt with in the preceding agenda item.
- 47. He continued his presentation with a detailed description of each budget line item, informing at the same time about the newly applied budget structure.
- 48. In the course of the ensuing discussion, the Project Manager answered the questions posed regarding the possibility of Greek accession to the TEM Project.
- 49. Furthermore, he informed the Committee on the TEM Project and UNECE's new approach to the application of respective rules and procedures.
- 50. The Steering Committee expressed its concern that this approach may hamper the activities of Project as well as its management and lead to increased costs and lower attendance in the Project's workshops and meetings.
- 51. It requested the Project Manager and the UNECE to clarify the way of application of the respective rules and procedures, taking into account also the first experience gained in the course of the TEM workshop held in Budapest in November 2006 and to inform on the results the next session of the Committee.

TEM CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

- 52. Mr. M. Hantak briefly summarized the results of the past efforts to assign the new TEM Deputy Project Manager. The PCO staff situation, being difficult at present, may bring about even more problems in the future, as the Deputy Project Manager should take the post of Mr. M. Hantak after the termination of his mission and the appropriate time overlapping will be absolutely necessary.
- 53. In this connection, Mr. M. Adamantiadis informed the Committee that the contract of Mr. Hantak, expiring at the end of 2008, was successfully formalized. He reiterated the request of the UNECE as the Project's executing Agency, addressed to all member countries to propose the suitable candidates for the Deputy Project Manager.

OTHER BUSINESS

54. The TEM Project Manager drew the attention of the Committee to the need to prepare the list of TEM Project activities in 2007 and in this context asked the National Coordinators for proposals to organize the meetings included in the approved Programme of Work in their countries. With respect to the 2007 Steering Committee sessions, he intended to hold the next one in Krakow in Poland and the second one in Geneva. The 2007 annual HEEP Area V

meeting may take place either in Hungary or in Austria, but other offers to organize it would also be welcomed. In this connection, he informed the Committee that the participation in the 2007 HEEP International Conference would require the well prepared presentations of the HEEP related problems and/or solutions in the countries in question.

- 55. The Steering Committee welcomed the Decision No. 11/06 of the OSCE Ministerial Council on the Future Transport Dialogue in the OSCE, endeavouring in paragraph 2 to enhance the existing co-operation with the UNECE, in particular by providing political support for the implementation of the TEM and TER Projects' Master Plan (Annex 3).
- 56. Mr. M. Adamantiadis described his new duties as the Chief of the Transport and Infrastructure Development Section of the UNECE, which also included the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Inland Transport Committee and Bureau. He explained that according to the Terms of Reference, the new Regional Advisor, who will take his former post, would closely collaborate with him so that the UNECE backstopping of both the TEM and TER Projects will be even strengthened. Concluding his statement, Mr. Adamantiadis expressed his pleasure in collaborating closely with both PCOs as well as with the TEM and TER member countries and reaching such positive results, which has brought TEM and TER among the top initiatives in the European transport context.
- 57. The TEM Steering Committee voiced unanimously its warmest thanks and expressions of gratitude to Mr. Adamantiadis for his dedication and personal support to the TEM Project, which he brought at the level never reached before. It also stressed its hope that the new demanding duties he had undertaken would not prevent him from keeping the contact with the Projects and its activities in the future.
- 58. Being informed about the retirement of Mr. Capel Ferrer of the UNECE Transport Division in Spring of next year, the Committee would like to use this opportunity to extend its sincere thanks to him for his long-time support, assistance and enthusiasm in backstopping and promoting the goals and aims of the TEM Project and to wish him personal happiness and good health in the years to come.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

59. The Committee adopted the report on its forty-sixth session.

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Annexes: 3

TRANS-EUROPEAN NORTH-SOUTH MOTORWAY (TEM) STEERING COMMITTEE

Forty-sixth session

4 - 6 December 2006

Geneva, Switzerland

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