

TER Working Party on Infrastructure Developments and Technical Operations (WP1)

Report

1. The 11th session of the TER WP1 took place in Geneva, 14 November 2006.
2. The following TER countries attended the meeting: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. Ukraine as observer country as well as representatives of the UNECE , TER PCO and consultant for the TER Master Plan also attended the meeting. The List of Participants is attached (Annex I).
3. On behalf of the UNECE and the Director of Transport Division the representative of the Executing Agency welcomed the participants and conveyed greetings and wishes for a successful meeting.

Election of Officers

4. The participants elected Mr. Stoliarov (Russian Federation) Chairman and Mr. Hep (Czech Republic) Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda

5. The participants adopted the Agenda of the session (Annex II).

Presentation of the Draft Final Report on the comparison of the TER Master Plan Backbone network vis-à-vis HLG priority axes and projects and legal commitments of EU member and acceding countries.

6. The consultant presented in detail the results of the comparison report, distributed as document TER/WP1/76.
7. The representative of the Executing Agency outlined the importance of this task within the pan-European context and appreciated the work done by the consultant in this respect. He recommended the inclusion in the final report of the sections identified in the EU relevant Guidelines (30 projects), which do not overlap with the Master Plan Backbone network in the EU/TER countries.
8. TER Project Manager recommended the inclusion of the Motorways of the Sea, part of the HLG Report, in the comparison report of 2007 of the TER Master Plan Backbone network vis-à-vis the priority multimodal and transnational axes.

9. The participants endorsed the report, with the recommendations in above para 7 and 8. The consultant was requested to finalize the report accordingly.

Presentation of the draft progress report on the TER Master Plan progress implementation, in 2006.

10. The consultant presented the draft progress report distributed as document TER/WP.1/77, explained in detail its content and outlined the progress achieved in 2006.

11. The participants appreciated the positive developments taking place in the countries in the implementation of priority projects identified by the Master Plan.

12. As reported in document TER/WP.1/77 some countries did not provide data or submitted additional information on the spot.

13. The representative of Turkey reminded the participants that the railway line Ankara-Izmir was included in the TER network following the normal procedures and among the new priority projects in the framework of the review and updating of the Master Plan in 2008. This High Speed railway project Ankara-Izmir should be included in the Master Plan. At the same time the Ankara-Konya line will be included in the TER network and also Ankara-Konya High Speed railway line project will be included later in the TER Master Plan in 2008.

14. Referring to the proposal of the representative of the Executing Agency on drafting an integrated TEM-TER progress report in the implementation of the priority projects and based on the view expressed by several countries the participants agreed that in addition to the 2006 progress report of TER and TEM an outline of the main conclusions of both will be prepared as an integrated progress report.

15. The participants appreciated the work done by the consultants and agreed with the above recommendations. The consultants were requested to proceed accordingly.

Proposals for draft TER Master Plan follow-up Action Plan in 2007

16. The consultant presented the main objective and tasks foreseen in the proposed Action Plan for implementation in 2007 distributed as document (TER/WP.1/78).

17. Following extensive discussion the participants agreed upon the following:

- Section A, item 3: Harmonization and coordination of the order of priority of projects be replaced by identification of areas where cross border projects timing and realization need to be addressed...

- Section A, item 9: The phrase .investment strategy.. be replaced by .Master Plan..... Furthermore, the TOR be replaced by methodology and the word reviewing be replaced by reviewing and updating., coordination of the work to be given to a consultant is replaced by given to the PCO with assistance provided by experts/consultants from the TER countries.

18. The participants discussed upon the funding aspects for the implementation of the Action Plan in 2007. It was made clear that the implementation of these activities in 2007 would be achieved without any additional funding from the countries. It was requested that information on estimated implementation costs of this plan be provided to the Steering Committee for approval and for final of endorsement of the Action Plan.

19. The participants recommended continuing using the services of Mr. Lupescu in the first half of 2007, and of Mr. Galbenu, in 2007 in supporting the implementation of the above activities. At the same time, the Project Manager was requested, in consultation with the Executing Agency, to explore possibilities of obtaining experts from member countries, based of fee, for assisting PCO in carrying out the above tasks.

Common assessment on bottlenecks, missing links, new priorities in investment plans existing in TER countries in order to remove the impediments and obtain concrete results in the development of railway transport.

20. Participants from all the countries provided short information on the subject

Discussion on funding issues related to the implementation of the Master Plan projects to the view of addressing these issues within the framework of a joint TEM-TER special event organized with the support of the UNECE.

21. The representative of the executing Agency provided updated information on this subject and replied to related questions. It was made clear that the UNECE is ready to support this activity as soon the appropriate involvement of the key players from the IFI's and other international organizations in ensured.

Adoption of the report of the meeting

22. The report of WP.1 meeting was adopted by the participants who recommended that this report be presented to the Steering Committee for consideration and approval.