



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

**TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
31st Session, 24 – 29 October 2011
Salzburg, Austria**

**Draft
REPORT**

1. 31st Session of the TER Steering Committee was held on 24 - 29 October 2011 in Salzburg, Austria.

PARTICIPATION

2. The countries that participated in the meeting were: Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia. Representatives of UNECE, TER PCO and its consultant on the TER Master Plan Revision also attended the meeting. List of participants is attached (ANNEX I).

OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. The session was opened by Mr. H. Meelich, TER Project Manager.
4. Ms. U. Zechner, Chief of Transport Section of the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology welcomed the participants on behalf of Ms. S. Bures, the Minister and wished the session full success and its participants a pleasant stay in Salzburg.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

5. The Agenda (ANNEX II) of the session was approved as amended.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6. The participants in the Steering Committee elected as its officers Mr. J. Kleniewski (Chairman, Poland) and Mr. M. Kovacevic (Rapporteur, Bosnia and Herzegovina).

REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER

7. In his report, the Project Manager briefed the session about TEM PCO's as well as about his own activities in the reporting period. He especially underlined the successful finalization of the TEM Master Plan Revision, closer contacts established with the Ukrainian authorities as a follow-up of the meeting held on 17 June 2011 at the Romanian/Ukrainian border crossing control station at Siret with the President of County Council of Suceava (Romania) and the Governor of Chernivtsi (Ukraine) region, the Conference on Development of Special Rail Transport Infrastructures – Ferries/Seaports held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 20 September 2011 and the Wider Black Sea Area Summit which took place in the framework of the „Railway Days“ Conference held on 4 and 5 October 2011 in Bucharest, Romania, which was aimed at analyzing all stages of the railway freight transport process from East to West through the Black and Caspian Seas area. His report was endorsed by the session.

STATUS OF TER TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2011

8. Mr M.Pesut, the UNECE representative, reported on the financial position of the Project as well as on the status of the 2011 Trust Fund contributions, amounting at present to USD 69,953. At the same time, he asked the remaining 11 member countries which did not transfer their 2011 payments to the Fund yet to do so at their earliest convenience.

TER MASTER PLAN REVISION FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES AND MONITORING SYSTEM

9. The Project Manager informed the Steering Committee about the successful termination of the Revision of the TER Master Plan and extended his thanks to the UNECE and participating countries for their close collaboration and valuable inputs to its elaboration.
10. Mr. P. Pospisil, the TER consultant, presented the main outcomes and conclusions of the Volume II (Annexes) of the Final Report of the Revision of the TER Master Plan. The participating countries were requested to communicate to the TER PCO their comments to both Volumes of the revised Master Plan Final report as soon as possible, but by 20 November 2011 at the latest.

11. The hard copies of the Volume II of the Final report of the Revision of the TER Master Plan were distributed to the members of the Steering Committee.
12. The Steering Committee took note of the TER Master Plan Revision Follow-up Action Plan as well as of the results of the 1st TEM and TER Joint Rail and Road/Motorway Follow-up Expert Group Meeting held on 26 October 2011, which approved in general the TER Master Plan Revision monitoring mechanism based on 4 templates, which would be submitted filled in to the TER PCO by 31 May of each year.
13. The Committee decided that the results of the monitoring activities would be submitted once a year for the consideration of the TER Steering Committee.

TER PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2012

14. The TER Project Manager presented and explained the draft TER Programme of Work for 2012.
15. In the course of the ensuing discussion, the representative of Poland, as the country holding at present the Presidency of the EU confirmed that EU would focus on railway issues in the forthcoming period of 7 years. The Czech representatives proposed to include to the next year's programme of work also the new topic related to the coordination of rules and parameters of the future high speed railway network in the region. The representative of the UNECE recommended to elaborate in the coming year a complementary report on the Master Plan revised backbone network vis-à-vis the other international transport networks in the region; such a document was elaborated as a follow-up of the past Master Plan and was greatly appreciated by the international organizations involved.
16. The Committee approved the Programme proposed by the PCO as amended in accordance with the results of the discussion.

TER COST PLAN FOR 2012

17. The UNECE representative and the TER Project Manager introduced the 2012 TER cost plan containing also the corresponding resource requirements, underlining the fact that more than half of these resources would be earmarked for the Group Training. The cost plan was approved by the Steering Committee.

ELECTION OF THE PROJECT MANAGER

18. Based on the kind offer of the Government of Austria, the Steering Committee elected unanimously Mr. Helmut Meelich the TER Project Manager for the period 1 January 2012 – 31 December 2013.

OTHER BUSINESS

19. The Project Manager informed the session about the planned sessions of the TER Steering Committee in 2012 to be held in March probably in Ankara and in November in Salzburg.
20. The representatives of the selected Austrian institutions and companies presented in the course of this agenda item reports on their activities and achievements in the rail transport sector, which are listed in the ANNEX III of this report.
21. Mr. Z. Broyde, the Ukrainian Consultant, reported on possible transit potential of Ukraine in the TER and TEM projects.
22. On 28 October, in the framework of the presentation of the transport policy of the Austrian Ministry of Transport and of the intermodal innovations of the Austrian Federal Railways, the technical visit to the intermodal node in Wels took place.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

23. The report on the 31st session of the Steering Committee was adopted.
24. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Austrian Government and to the Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology as well as to the County and Town of Salzburg for hosting the session and to the organizing team led by the Project Manager for its outstanding organization.