

Memorandum of Understanding
for co-operation between the
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
and the International Union of Railways (UIC)

The UNECE, acting as Executing Agency of the Trans-European Railway (TER) Project (hereafter called TER), and the International Union of Railways (hereafter called UIC) acting with the common objective of European rail transport integration and development,

Desiring to promote the European transport of goods and passengers by railways,

With the view to increasing their efficiency and avoiding duplication of efforts,

Agreeing on the following Memorandum of Understanding, as a step towards the establishment of further co-operation in the fields described to the present and its Annex, subject to applicable internal Rules and Regulations for both Organisations, UNECE and UIC, agree to identify areas of possible cooperation in the following fields:

1. Modernisation of infrastructure for conventional railway and combined transport

- modernisation of TER network
- implementation of studies on TER line sections
- evaluation of bottlenecks and measures for their elimination
- organisation of seminars and training courses
- co-operation with other international bodies for the implementation of programmes on developing infrastructure as well as their financing both in the field of rail and combined transport
- development of relations with private sector in order to achieve effective application of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) concept in the European railways and combined transport systems.

2. Improvement of railway operation, organisation and management

- inputs for implementing new studies for the improvement of services on long Pan-European corridors: analyses, conclusions, proposals
- evaluation of restructuring measures already taken by the railway companies
- evaluation of the implementation of TER operation parameters and technical standards, as well as the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) and the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) standards
- inception of studies for the development of combined transport in the TER countries and establishing relations with combined transport operators
- implementation of measures in accordance with the market oriented management of the railway companies

3. Development and utilisation of the database

- elaboration of studies or participation as sub-contractor for implementing studies on TER lines by using the existing data and in co-operation with the member countries
- co-operation with the private sector for obtaining additional funding: sale of certain categories of data or fields
- continuation of updating and processing of uniform and compatible data
- co-operation with other international organisations in charge with data collection

4. Improvement and harmonisation of railway techniques and technology

- organisation of workshops, seminars for transfer of know-how and new technologies
- co-operation with other institutions in the modernisation of track maintenance technologies, signalling and telecommunications, use of informatic technologies, etc.

Within the general framework of this co-operation agreement, short-term actions defined in the attached Annex could be implemented.

Annually, one meeting for examining the evolution of co-operation actions defined in the Annex and their updating would take place in Paris and Budapest alternately. New short-term actions could be included during these annual meetings.

This Memorandum of Understanding is concluded without a time limit. It may be terminated by either party on a six months written notice sent to the other party. It is drawn up in English and French and enters into force upon its signature by the two parties.

The co-operation in the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding reflects the desire of the two sides for joint actions in the fields described, but at the same time does not contain or imply any legal or financial obligations or responsibilities deriving from the execution or absence of execution of all or part of the actions foreseen by the present Memorandum of Understanding for whatever reason.

Done on

For UNECE

For UIC

Paolo Garonna
Acting Executive Secretary

Philippe Roumeguère
Director General

Annex
to the Memorandum of Understanding
between UNECE and UIC

Development of the network

The UNECE TER Project is a network Project. UIC has defined a European Infrastructure Master Plan (EIMP), which is also a network. The two Organisations will endeavour to integrate the two networks into the framework jointly defined and developed at the Pan-European level.

The two networks, which were integrated into the Crete and then Helsinki corridors will, on a long-term, act for the introduction of one common TER/UIC network recognised at the European level.

The TER and the UIC will use all their influence for ensuring the co-operation with the Transport Infrastructure Needs Assessment (TINA) successor body.

Bottlenecks

The TER and the UIC shall conduct common activities for improving the border crossings, including the methodology of Facilrail.

Training

The TER and the UIC will co-finance seminars on commonly established subjects. These seminars would be jointly organised by the two Organisations.

Database

The UIC will invite the TER to a demonstration of its database and mapping in (MAP-Info) system in use within the constraints of their respective rules and policies. The two sides will examine the possibility to use compatible software in the long-term.

Exchange of information

The TER and the UIC will inform each other about the studies they would be doing or they would commission on subjects like the organisation of railway companies and technical interoperability. Whenever it is considered in the interest of both Organisations, they will endeavour to exchange such information subject to applicable rules and regulations.

Mutual participation at meetings

The TER and the UIC will annually inform each other on the calendar of their important meetings in the fields listed in this Agreement, with the view of mutual participation at these meetings whenever possible.