



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

**TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
36th Session, 24 – 25 February 2014
Geneva, Switzerland**

Draft REPORT

1. The 36th Session of the TER Steering Committee was held on 24 – 25 February 2014 in Geneva.

PARTICIPATION

2. The countries participating in the meeting were: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia and Turkey. Representatives of the UNECE and of the TER PCO also attended the meeting. List of participants is attached (ANNEX I).

OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. The session was opened by Mr. M. Radl, the outgoing Chairman.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Agenda (ANNEX II) of the session was approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. The participants in the Steering Committee elected as Chairman Mr. M. Kovacevic (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT AND REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER

6. In its report, the management , briefed the session about the

present status of the TER PCO. They extended their appreciation to the Slovak Government for hosting the office of the project as well as to the UNECE and especially to Ms. Molnar for the support and assistance provided to the new Project management during its starting period. They stressed out that the close cooperation with the relevant working parties of ECE Transport Division is very important and fully connected with the plans for revitalization of the project.

7. Furthermore the management point out the urgent need for the office to be equipped with proper and updated computers that would facilitate their, and this of the staff, day to day work. For this reason they submitted a list of equipment with the relevant budget – attached to this report - for consideration and approval by the steering committee. They also informed the committee that they have already offers from three vendors and that they suggest for approval of the most economic one.
8. The steering Committee thanked the managers for their immediate actions towards the urgent reinforcement of the office with proper equipment, considered and approved their proposal. The Committee requested the managers to amend the forecasted costs plan – if needed – as to accommodate such purchasing.
9. The management informed the committee that based on the proposed work plan they should take action towards the promotion of TER project. In that respect they plan to attract nonmember States of strategic importance for the project by visiting them and having discussions with key stakeholders. In addition, they will probably visit some member States for strategic discussions regarding the implementation of the program of work.
10. The Committee, welcomed the decision of the management, requested them to be very selective with the choice of countries visiting and always to bear in mind the limitations of the budget. The Committee suggested to the managers that a presentation “**why to join TER project**” should be prepared enhancing the efforts for attracting new countries. The Committee requested the management to inform the Committee about the results of these visits at the next meeting of the project. .
11. On behalf of the UNECE, Mr. K .Alexopoulos expressed its full support to the work of the TER PCO and appreciated also the new ideas and inputs envisaged, which should reflect the needs of the member countries.

TER COST PLAN AND 2014 BUDGET

12. The draft TER Cost Plan was distributed at the session for consideration and approval by the Committee. The Committee requested the management to revise this draft, taking into

account the new TER Programme of Work and its priorities for 2014 and submit it to all member States for their consideration and approval as soon as possible but not later than the 21 March 2014. The Committee pointed out that such cost revision should also consider reductions in areas where today very high amounts appear to be forecasted such as in telecommunications.

STATUS OF TER TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2014

13. Ms. M.-S. Fouvez, the UNECE Regional Adviser, reported on the status of the TER Trust Fund and on the 2013 contributions to it. By 31 August 2013, 10 member countries made available their contributions to the fund.

FINAL TER PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2014

14. The Committee was informed by the managers on the programme of work for 2014. The revised version of the programme reflects discussions made and decisions taken during the 35th session of the Committee (22 October, Geneva) but also comments received by member States and UNECE.
15. The Committee endorsed the programme of work as was presented by the managers.
16. The Committee requested the managers to provide a prioritized list of projects to be implemented during 2014. This list should be made available to member States as soon as possible but not later than the 21 March 2014.
17. In addition the Committee requested the managers to prepare and make available with the list of projects, a list of meetings that they are planning to organize during 2014, indicating the time and place for their information and on time preparation.
18. In general it is agreed that two steering Committee meetings will take place every year. One early in the year, possibly February or March, and the second in November in Geneva, back to back with the sessions of Working Party on rail transport as to have the opportunity to present the results of the common projects but also for the Committee to be informed for other contemporary issues relevant to rail transport.
19. The Committee welcomed the suggestion made by Turkish delegates to host one of the future Steering Committee meetings and thanked the Turkish Government and Railways for their kind proposal. The Committee will decide at its next session which session will take place in Turkey as to inform accordingly and on time the Turkish delegates.

LONG-TERM STRATEGY OF THE NEW TER DEVELOPMENT

20. The managers presented the strategy for the future of TER project. The strategy should ensure the smooth continuation but also the further development of the project. The main principles of this strategy are summarized as follows:
- (a). Create economies of scale and multiplier effects on TER's work by cooperating with the relevant UNECE Transport Division Working Parties;
 - (b). Listen and react to member States requests by adapting the program of work and the technical assistance meetings accordingly;
 - (c). Observe the challenges and trends in rail transport, regionally and globally, and organize technical assistance workshops, visits or group of experts that will discuss and/or analyze these challenges for the benefit of TER member States;
21. The managers pointed out that such strategy and its desired results would facilitate their task to further promote TER project and attract more Governments; This Strategy would be enhanced with a comprehensive, detailed, concrete programme of work with specific activities, outputs and timeframe.

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TER MASTER PLAN REVISION IN 2014

22. In accordance with the decision of the 31st session of the Committee held in Salzburg, Austria in October 2011 that the results of the monitoring activities should be submitted once a year for the consideration of the TER Steering Committee, the National Coordinators of the participating countries were requested to submit the 4 filled-in TER Master Plan Revision monitoring templates for 2013 to the TER PCO by the end of May 2014 at the latest. For this purpose, the PCO will distribute the original blank templates to the countries by the end of February this year.
23. The TER PCO would process the data obtained and prepare an annual summary report on results of the Master Plan Revision monitoring in 2013 for the next session of the TER Steering Committee for examination.

2013 STATUS OF THE TER BACKBONE NETWORK – TERSTAT MAPS

24. In line with the results of the 33rd session of the Steering Committee, the draft TERSTAT backbone network maps of all

member countries, showing its actual status, were elaborated and distributed at the TEM and TER Joint Expert meeting held in October 2013 in Bad Gastein, Austria. In accordance with the TER 2013 Programme of Work, the TER PCO sent these draft maps to the participating countries with the kind request to complement them by outlining the design speeds and future plans of development of the network.

25. The requested data were received from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation and Serbia. On their basis, the map of the whole TER region was also elaborated and presented at the session.
26. The TER PCO will send all the maps to the TER National Coordinators by e-mail by 15 March this year with the kind request to check them, report any inconsistencies, introduce the changes which occurred during the year 2013 and return them to the TER PCO by end of May 2014 at the latest.
27. The managers, based on the suggested programme of work, proposed to the steering Committee, should evaluate the possibility for revising the master plan with an electronic way by using GIS maps. Such an electronic revision would have multiple effects for the member States because it would create an online interactive map where several information would be added – such as traffic statistics etc – and several other applications would be used such as traffic flows scenarios etc.
28. The Committee recognized the importance of having the revisions of the master plan on GIS maps and the multiple possibilities and opportunities that such electronic tool would offer to Governments. Therefore the Committee requested the managers to discuss such a possibility with the Information Technology consultant of the project and the expert of UNECE, to analyze what kind of data exists today, if no data exists to clarify with the consultant what kind of data it would be needed for developing such GIS maps and the costs involved for their development, for consideration and approval by the next Steering Committee.

COLLABORATION WITH THE UNECE ON THE HIGH SPEED RAIL MASTER PLAN

29. At its 34th session held in April 2013 in Brno, the Steering Committee took the decision that the TER Project Manager, in cooperation with the secretary of SC.2, will review and analyze all existing or already implemented methodologies on High Speed train networks development and that only then the existing TORs of TER and SC.2 High Speed Master Plans would be amended accordingly.

30. The overview of these methodologies was submitted as a formal document to the last session of the SC.2 in 2013. Taking this into account and based on detailed discussion on the matter, in which almost all participants took part, the Steering Committee, took the following decisions:
- SC.2 and TER High Speed Master Plans will be developed and elaborated by using the same methodology;
 - Terms of Reference based on the methodology agreed will be developed for the consultant that will elaborate the project for high speed master plan;
 - The special needs of TER member States – if any – should be reflected in the High Speed master plan methodology;
31. The Steering Committee requested the project managers in cooperation with UNECE to prepare and send to all delegates well before the next TER meeting the common methodology for the development of the High speed master plan and the Terms of Reference of the consultant that will elaborate the project for their consideration and approval.

FUTURE OF THE TER PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE

32. The managers described the present situation of the TER PCO as very satisfactory with respect of location, space and staff. Apart of the shortage of equipment, the only problem which should be dealt with in a short time, is the position of the office in 2015 and the years to follow.
33. For this purpose, the extension of the agreement between the Slovak Government and the UNECE on hosting the PCO in Bratislava is very desirable. In this respect, a letter should be **urgently** sent by UNECE to the Slovak Government kindly requesting the extension of the agreement between the Slovak Government and the UNECE on hosting the PCO in Bratislava.

TER CO-OPERATION TRUST FUND AGREEMENT FOR 2011 - 2015

34. The Attachment A to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement for the period 2011 – 2015 was approved by the 28th session of the TER Steering Committee held on 22 - 23 April 2010 in Innsbruck, Austria and is valid until the end of the next year.
35. Therefore, the work on the new Attachment A to the Trust Fund Agreement for the period 2016 – 2020 should commence at the end of this year or in the first months of 2015 at the latest.

OTHER BUSINESS

36. The representative of UNECE replied to member States request regarding the rail productivity indicators prepared for the SC.2 session of 2013. He stated that a set of new, revised indicators, will be submitted to the next session of the SC.2 for approval.
37. The representatives of Turkey expressed the readiness to host the 37th session of the TER Steering Committee in their country, which proposal was appreciated by the session. The date and place of the session will be communicated to the UNECE and via the TER PCO to the member countries in due time. By the end of March the distinguished representatives of Turkey will be able to inform the SC about the final invitation.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

38. The report on the 36th session of the Steering Committee, taking into account the comments of its members, was adopted. The participants extended their thanks to the UNECE for hosting the session.