



RESTRICTED
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TRANS-EUROPEAN NORTH-SOUTH MOTORWAY (TEM)

Steering Committee

Sixty-fourth Session

15 April 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

REPORT

PARTICIPATION

1. The 64th session of the TEM Steering Committee took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 15 April 2015. The National Coordinators of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Turkey, as well as the UNECE Transport Division representatives, and an Expert from the TEM PCO took part in the session. The list of participants is attached to this report as Annex 1.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND 63rd SESSION REPORT

2. The Agenda of the session, as adopted, is included as Annex 2 to this report.
3. The TEM 63rd Steering Committee session report is adopted (Annex 3).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4. Mr. Remigijus Lipkevicius (Lithuania) was elected as Chairman of the session and Ms. Katarzyna Prokop (PCO) was elected as Rapporteur.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

5. Mr. Nenad Nikolic (UNECE Transport Division, Regional Advisor) welcomed TEM delegates. Mr. Andrzej Maciejewski (TEM Project Manager) welcomed participants and guests and introduced the main point of interest – the future strategy of TEM – signalling the need for thorough discussion and active cooperation. Mr. Maciejewski presented the challenges for TEM in 2015: tangible results and more visibility of TEM project which is linked to close cooperation and synergy with other UNECE WP/programs. Lithuanian representative supported Mr. Maciejewski's statement.

REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER

6. Mr. Maciejewski presented PCO Project Manager Report 2015. He stated that in line with the TEM objectives, several activities were carried out in order to present TEM development for 2014 – 2015. Mr Maciejewski stated the outcomes of the report which he presented during the 77th Inland Transport Committee meeting on February 24-25, 2015. He fully described TEM activities and achievements from February 2014 and pinpointed the challenges and activities planned for 2015.

Mr Maciejewski emphasized the undertaken actions to cooperate with the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5), Trans European Railway (TER) and Euro Asian Transport Links (EATL) projects. TEM PCO participated in the organization of the “Good practices and new tools for Financing Transport Infrastructure” seminar (8 September 2014, Geneva).

Additionally, he stressed the continuous need for capacity-building on Road Maintenance and Asset Management in cooperation with iHEEP programme based on 2014 Annual Meeting of the Area V International Highways Engineers Exchange Programme (iHEEP) held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 15–18 June 2014.

Furthermore, he mentioned the cooperation with the UNECE in the field of Intelligent Transport Systems. TEM Project Manager and TEM participating country representatives took part in seminar jointly organized by the Belgium Ministry of Transport and UNECE on Intelligent Transport Systems in Brussels in October 2014.

Finally, he talked about the capacity building and cooperation on Road Infrastructure Safety Management within the TEM Steering Committee and a road safety workshop that took place on April 14th 2015.

Mr Maciejewski listed the 2015 challenges for TEM project as following:

- Ensure active participation of TEM participating countries representatives
- Deliver tangible project results
- Increase TEM project visibility
- Synergies with the UNECE bodies related to road transport and road safety

TEM has planned an active calendar of events for 2015:

- 65th SC meeting will take place in Vienna, Austria in October or November 2015
- Road Safety workshop, held on 14 April 2015, Geneva
Best practices in implementation of EU Directive on Road Safety Infrastructure Management (road safety audit and road safety inspection)
- iHEEP workshop scheduled for June 15th 2015 in Gdańsk
PPP and road infrastructure financing
- Environmental Impact Assessment workshop to be held in Vienna, Austria back-to-back with 65th SC meeting

Moreover, to better facilitate the activities of TEM project and to prepare 64th TEM SC Mr. Maciejewski met with Mr. Nikolic in order to thoroughly discuss the action plan for 2015 – 2017.

TEM SC approved proposed list of the TEM meetings for 2015.

Crucial points which are going to provide tangible results have been distinguished and they should represent smooth and active continuation of the work undertaken in 2014. The PCO proposed to prepare basic information and terms of reference for the following reports:

- TEM strategy for the next 2 years
- Sources of Financing for TEM infrastructural projects
- Road Infrastructure Safety Management on the TEM network

REPORTS PROPOSALS

- Report on Strategy

SC accepted a proposal to prepare a report that will highlight all activities and future actions of TEM UNECE. The report will take into account the global trends, cooperation with external bodies and recent research that could be implemented in order to better structure the work within TEM network.

PCO will prepare the Terms of Reference by April 30, 2015 and will send it to the National Coordinators for comments. Member countries will have one week to send their remarks and comments. After the final draft is ready, the UNECE will prepare the procedure to hire the external experts. National Coordinators are invited to send the proposals for external experts. The report should be done within 45 working days at a cost of approximately 9 000 USD.

- Report on Financing

This report will focus on diverse sources of funding for road construction, management, maintenance and administration and will show the best practices of using the national and external funds. The partial information for the report will be obtained from the iHEEP seminar scheduled for June 15th, 2015 in Poland (Gdańsk).

PCO will prepare the Terms of Reference after iHEEP seminar and disseminate it among the countries for comments. After obtaining the final draft proposal UNECE will commence the procedure to hire the external consultant who will prepare the report within 30 working days at a cost of 6 000 USD.

TEM SC agreed to inform Ms Denise Reis (iHEEP), that the date and venue for iHEEP seminar was decided and the invitation will follow shortly. Lithuania proposed to host the seminar; nevertheless Vilnius already organized the iHEEP seminar in 2014. Therefore, Polish and Lithuanian representatives talked about the hosting the seminar and agreed to have it in Poland.

Czech representatives presented an idea of principle of rotation and SC agreed that the iHEEP seminar should be organized by different country each year. In order to streamline the TEM activities, calendar of TEM meetings/events for 2016 should be presented and approved at the 65th SC in Vienna in November 2015. Furthermore, documents prepared for SC has to be disseminated well in advance, and at least 10 days before SC meeting. Turkey confirmed they will to organize iHEEP seminar in 2016.

- Report on Road Safety

This report should give an overview of Road Infrastructure Safety Management on TEM network, elaborate best practices and propose the next steps in implementation for better road safety. PCO will prepare the Terms of Reference and disseminate it among the countries for comments. After obtaining the final draft proposal UNECE will commence

the procedure to hire the external consultant who will prepare the report within 30 working days at a cost of 6 000 USD.

INFORMATION OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

7. Mr Nikolic gave a concise update on the TER project. During the last SC the Master Plan on High Speed Rail has been discussed and Terms of Reference for Expert are being prepared. The temporary TER PCO has been established in Vienna. Moreover, TER took active participation in Expert Group on Safety at Level Crossings.
8. Mr. Miroslav Jovanovic, Economic Affairs Officer from Transport Division has talked about the EATL and presented recent development of the project. He asked TEM countries to consider getting involved in the works of that group whose main objective is to show the superiority and lower costs of transport of goods by land from China to Europe and other benefits from this solution. The Croatian representative asked to present the benefit of getting involved in the project by European countries.

FOLLOW UP ON ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

9. Mr Maciejewski summed up the workshop on road safety and stated that it was an interesting exchange of information, valuable discussion on what is needed for the improvement of the road safety records on TEM roads. Croatian representative expressed his concerns about the road safety and how it can benefit all the TEM countries. A good practice would be an annual plan on road safety activities. Slovenian representative mentioned that the information provided during the workshop allows to compare different approaches and analyse diverse solutions. This is crucial knowledge when preparing the future programs for road safety. According to Czech representatives, the information provided by member countries paints a multilevel picture of road safety activities based on research and real life solution. Turkish representatives pointed out that there is no common methodology related to defining the accident cost and common indicators to facilitate the comparison/benchmarking and monitoring of the undertaken activities. The main challenge is to decrease the number of fatalities. Lithuanian side indicated the issue with auditors which are completely different in each country. It would be needed to do the research if foreign auditors could provide services to other TEM member states. Also the training of the auditors proves problematic and not concise and thus creating an area needing improvement.

Mr. Nikolic reminded that amendments on AGR Agreement related to road infrastructure safety management are adopted by the Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1), but still pending for one or more countries to be sponsors of the proposal to New York. SC agreed to send the letter to national representatives in the working party on Road Transport (SC.1) in order to support adopted amendments on AGR Agreement on RSMI.

REPORT ON TEM TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2014

10. Mr. Nikolic presented an update on the financial situation of the project. The Report on TEM Trust Fund Contributions and Expenditures 2014 was adopted. The 2015 invoices of payments have been distributed to each country. The budget is pretty well maintained and current balance is nearly 400 000 USD. The only issue is Slovakia's missing contribution for the last 3 years. During this time Slovakia's representatives have not participated in the meetings.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

11. Status of the Slovak Republic

SC agreed to freeze the membership of the Slovak Republic due to the lack of membership payments and participation in the last three years. It is necessary due to the administrative financial issues - inactive status results in debt status for the country when no payments are received. Nevertheless, the Slovak Republic has the right to re-activate their participation in the project at any time should they decide to do so. Mr. Maciejewski offered to set up a meeting with the Slovakian side in order to discuss the Slovakia's future participation in the project. Croatian representatives suggested re-sending a reminder informing the Slovak side of the consequences of not participating.

12. TEM Project Manager contract

Mr. Maciejewski informed the SC that the TEM Project Manager contract is pending and the SC will be informed about its finalization in the near future.