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Monitoring of the developments in pan-European transport networks:

Trans-European Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects

Information on the Trans-European North-South Motorway project development*

Submitted by the TEM Project Manager

I. Executive summary

1. The Trans European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project is a sub-regional cooperation initiative among Central, Eastern and South Eastern European countries and works as a unique platform for road infrastructure providers and operators within framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.
2. It has been established in 1977 to:
 - (a) facilitate road traffic in Europe;
 - (b) improve the quality and efficiency of transport operations;
 - (c) balance existing gaps and disparities between motorway networks in Western, Eastern, Central and South-Eastern Europe;
 - (d) assist the integration process of European transport infrastructure systems.
3. TEM Network is the backbone of the Pan-European Road Corridors in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.



4. As for today the Project has 14 Member Countries who signed the TEM Cooperation Trust Fund Agreement – Armenia, Austria (associate member), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. Four countries have observer status: Montenegro, Serbia, Sweden and Ukraine. Azerbaijan membership is pending, awaiting signature for accession.

II. Objectives of the Project

5. The main objectives of the project are:

(a) to undertake coordinated actions of the participating countries for the creation of a TEM network, that will form a system of high capacity roads ensuring an adequate quality of service for traffic by providing safety, speed and comfort, based on commonly accepted and adopted standards and practices recommended for use by all TEM countries;

(b) to link within this network the Northern and the Southern and South-Eastern parts of Europe, from Baltic Sea to Adriatic, Aegean and Black Seas, via the participating countries.

(c) to ensure a balanced system for transportation of goods and people between countries of Eastern, Central and Western parts of Europe, in particular those situated along its North-South axis.

(d) to satisfy the transport demand of long distance and international traffic by offering an efficient and convenient mode of transport.

6. The operational objectives are as follows:

(a) to assist in accelerating of the construction of TEM network through the identification of investment needs and priorities, investigation of financial resources needed for TEM construction and the determination of appropriate and innovative pay-back systems for use at the TEM motorway;

(b) to assist in designing, building, maintaining, operating and administrating of the TEM motorway network on the territories of participating states;

(c) to assist extending the TEM by including into the basic agreed network new links oriented East-West direction across the North-South axis of TEM;

(d) to assist in consolidating the role of the TEM in the progress of transport integration in Europe;

(e) to promote and improve co-operation in all matters concerning road transport between TEM states having different levels of development;

(f) to support knowledge dissemination, expertise and know-how developed in the TEM region to other regions of the world.

III. TEM Development 2018

7. On the basis of The TEM Strategic Plan, adopted finally during the sixty-eighth session of the Project's Steering Committee meeting (20 and 21 February 2017) and according to sixty-ninth session of the Steering Committee (7–9 November 2017) the TEM

Project realizes its activities – reports, workshops, seminars and international cooperation¹ – within three main areas:

- (a) network improvement and Funding of infrastructure;
- (b) operational proficiency for road infrastructure operators and authorities;
- (c) designing responses to trends in transportation.

IV. Activities 2018

8. Network improvement and Funding of infrastructure:

(a) in line with the decision of the seventieth meeting of the Steering Committee, which was held from 14 to 16 March 2018 in Geneva, a new project has been foreseen – the TEM Network Report – which will present updated information in terms of network completeness, road safety or services at border crossings, as a mid-term review of TEM Masterplan adopted in 2011. It may become the basis for common projects among the TEM member States focusing for instance on the elimination of the existing gaps and disparities in the network or improving services for transport at border crossings.

(b) the Report should be prepared by the end of 2018.

(c) the TEM Project also chairs the ECE Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs, under the umbrella of WP.5.

(d) following Project's stakeholders analysis, the seventieth session of the Steering Committee approved the cooperation with the International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO) being developed in the framework of Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics.

(e) the TEM Project will contribute to ITIO goals in terms of network needs and its development, knowledge dissemination and further cooperation.

9. Operational proficiency for road infrastructure operators and authorities:

(a) activities have been broken down into five strategic initiatives:

- environmental protection
- organization and financing of the roads and motorways
- information systems for the management of the road infrastructure
- innovations in the road infrastructure management
- road safety

(b) currently two reports are under preparation and will be delivered by the end of 2018:

- (i) governing and Funding of Road Sub-Sector;
- (ii) road maintenance service levels.

¹ TEM Project cooperates with US Highways Engineering Exchange Program; from 2018 closer cooperation with World Road Association, International Road Federation and regional European initiatives has been foreseen.

10. Trends:

Improving operational proficiency of the road infrastructure operators will enable to foster readiness for future challenges like electrification, automation and sharing economy as these requires well-maintained, self-explaining roads, appropriate safety and security policies and well-managed data in terms of assets and traffic.

11. The above-mentioned International Highways Engineers Exchange Programme (iHEEP) Area V is a forum for annual exchange of knowledge and know-how between Highway Engineers of North America and Europe. iHEEP is a US initiative and TEM Project is their European counterpart. Cooperation with iHEEP started in 1993 and this year the twenty fifth TEM iHEEP Area V 2018 Annual Meeting was held from 28 to 30 May in Prague, Czech Republic. The meeting was dedicated to one of the priority topics of the TEM Project the Road Asset Management. Representatives of TEM member States and the Departments of Transport of four United States of America states shared their experiences and best practices on the preparation of Transportation Asset Management Plans.

IV. Challenges 2017

12. In 2018, within TEM Project three reports of great importance and value will be produced. For this reason, the active involvement of TEM member States is required in order to obtain the best possible quality of data.

V. Conclusions

13. All activities, carried out during the reporting period, were in line with the Programme of Work approved by the Steering Committee.

14. According to the TEM Trust Fund Agreement, TEM Project addresses topics of high priority for its member States which result to a more rapid integration of the motorway networks between Eastern and Western European countries. At the same time, TEM Project stipulates a better harmonization of road legislation and the creation of common motorway standards in order to ensure a higher quality of service along major corridors in the participating counties (e.g. road safety, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and financing).
