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TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)  
PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE

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TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)  
Steering Committee  
45th session, 20 November 2018  
Geneva, Switzerland

**D r a f t**

**REPORT**

The 45th session of the TER Steering Committee was held on 20 November 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

**PARTICIPATION**

The countries that participated in the session were: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Slovenia. Representatives of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division, Mr. G. Bessonov, the TER Project Manager, Mr. Andreas Zimmer, the TER Deputy Manager and the UNECE/TER Consultant also attended the session. List of participants is attached (Annex 1).

**OPENING OF THE SESSION**

The TER Project Manager welcomed the members of the Steering Committee in Geneva and opened the session.

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Agenda of the session was approved as submitted (Annex 2).

## **2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The participants in the Steering Committee elected as its officers Mr. Igor Princic (Chairman, Slovenia) and Mr. Markus Radl (Rapporteur, Austria).

## **3. REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGERS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK**

### ***a. TER Network and the Pan European Transport Corridors, Euro-Asian Transport Corridors and corridors of neighbouring regions;***

1. The Project Managers summarised the results achieved by the Project as well as the TER PCO activities in the reporting period from the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee. They also informed the participants about the implementation of the Programme of Work for 2018 adopted by the Steering Committee, about their efforts to attract countries neighbouring to the TER region to join the TER Project and about their work aimed at strengthening the connectivity of the TER backbone network by making use of the established contacts with the European Commission, OSJD and the EATL Project.
2. The Steering Committee appreciated these efforts of the Project Managers and took note of their report. It also took the decisions on the subject that are listed in Item 6. of this report – Main Decisions.

### ***b. High Speed Rail Master Plan;***

3. The Steering Committee was informed by the Project Management about the results of the selection process, according to which 3 top rated candidates for elaboration of the Phase 2 of the Master Plan were short listed.
4. Following the detailed discussion on the selection criteria and on the results and problems related to the assessment and selection procedure, the Steering Committee took the decision to cancel this call and to start the new one based on the revised TOR for the same activity. The selection committee was appointed by TER SC. The Selection Committee was composed of 7 members from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia.

5. The time schedule has been approved aimed at starting the consultant's contract mid-February 2019 (Annex 3). The selection criteria are based on the existing ones, duly amended (Annex 4).
6. The whole work on Phase 2 should be organised with the aim to publish it as the UNECE publication by the end of 2019. In case of missing this deadline, the report has to be produced as the TER publication only and the costs of its printing and translation at least to the Russian language must be settled from the TER budget.
7. In this connection, the UNECE representative, Mr. F. Dionori explained to the Committee how the process of selection of candidates works in accordance with the UNECE rules and guidelines.

***c. Programme of Work 2018;***

8. Mr. A. Zimmer, the Deputy Project Manager, informed the Committee about the status of implementation of the TER Programme of Work for 2018.

***d. TER Financial Report 2017;***

9. The Steering Committee approved the Report on 2017 TER Trust Fund Contributions and Expenditures, submitted by the UNECE representative, according to which the TER Trust Fund balance at the end of 2017 amounted to USD 917,985 and the TER Project's expenditures in the same year to USD 47,512.

***e. Programme of Work 2019***

10. The Steering Committee approved the TER Project Programme of Work for the year 2019 as amended in accordance with the outcomes of the discussion.
11. The 46th regular session of the Committee together with the TER Workshop will be held in Brno (Czech Republic) on 23 – 26 April 2019 and the 27th session in Geneva in November 2019. The special TER SC session would also take place in Belgrade at the end of January/beginning of February 2019 to finalize the selection procedure for the consultant on HS Master Plan Phase 2.

***f. Budget 2019***

12. The Steering Committee took note of the draft 2019 result- based budget submitted by the Project Management and approved it amended as follows:
  - Item A.1.1. – to be deleted;

- Item A.2.1. - “and new countries of strategic importance” to be deleted;
- A.2.3. – to be put in brackets as uncertain one;
- A.3.1. – to be postponed to 2020 with the understanding that the respective TOR will be submitted to the SC in April 2019, proposed to WP.5 in September 2019 and the final decision on it taken in November 2019;
- A.4.2. – “possible extension of TER system to non-TER countries” to be deleted.

***g. TER Backbone Network Annual Report 2018***

13. The Committee examined the final draft TER Backbone Network Annual Report 2018, sent to UNECE and National Coordinators in advance and set the deadline for final comments to it at 15 December 2018. The Report will be then made available at the UNECE/TER website. With respect to the possible extension of TER data collection to the selected non-TER countries (Chapter 5.2. of the Report) which the Committee favoured, the position was taken that the final decision on that is up to these non-TER countries and that it should be materialised without additional costs to the TER Project.

14. The draft New Structure of the TER Network Annual Report, presented by the Consultant in accordance with the decision of the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Steering Committee, will be sent to the National Coordinators by 23 November 2018. The National Coordinators will inform the PCO of their comments and positions with regard to the future structure of the Report (the 2018 proposed or new one with extended data demand) by 31 December 2018.

**4. DECISIONS ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

***a. Host country agreement with Serbia (March 2019 – March 2021)***

15. The UNECE representative, Mr. Nenad Nikolic informed the Steering Committee that UNECE received the letter from the Serbian Government, confirming its readiness to extend the hosting of the TER PCO in Belgrade for another two years. UNECE greatly appreciated the offer from the Serbian Government and responded positively on extension of TER PCO HCA.

***b. TER Managers’ contracts***

16. The UNECE received the letter of the Government of the Russian Federation, confirming the offer for continuation of Mr. G. Bessonov’s engagement as the TER Project Manager. The offer

was passed to the UN Headquarters in New York and the confirmation for contract extension is expected in the short time. With regard to continuation of the Deputy Project Manager, Mr. A. Zimmer, the similar letter of the Austrian Government, which would be greatly welcome, is also expected to be then put through the same procedure.

**c. TER Cost Plan 2018 Budget – statement**

17. Mr. N. Nikolic informed the Steering Committee that the Projects' costs in 2018 amounted to USD 91,061 out of the total 2018 budget of USD 289,280 (i.e. about 30% implementation of the budget), which confirmed the very sound financial position of the Project.

**d. Status of TER Trust Fund Contributions**

18. According to the UNECE information, all the member countries fulfilled their 2018 obligations towards the TER Trust Fund apart from Romania. The UNECE will contact the respective focal point in the Romanian Government and take appropriate actions aimed at the solution of this problem.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

19. The report on the 45th session of the Steering Committee was approved.

20. The Steering Committee extended its thanks to the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division for its kind hosting of the session, to the Project Management for its organisation and to the Chairman and Rapporteur for their able performances.

**6. ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS**

Item 3.a. The Steering Committee took note of the report of the Project Managers on implementation of the Programme of Work and took the following decisions:

- to continue the TER activities within the present TER member states' composition;
- accept any external partners' (non-TER states) offers to co-operate technically in the TSI and related fields for further TER SC consideration;
- support the confirmed presence of the TER PCO representatives (Project Manager and Deputy Project Manager) in the defined meetings in accordance with the adopted TER Programme of Work and then report to the SC.

Item 3.b. The Steering Committee decided to cancel the present process of selection of the consultant and to start the new one based on the revised TOR for the same activity and with amended criteria. The selection committee was

established composed of 7 members appointed at the session (Ms. Malgorzata Kopczynska, Ms. Jasna Divic, Ms. Ivana Bozic, Mr. Radek Cech, Mr. Mustafa Kovacevic, Mr. Pavol Hartl and Mr. Igor Princic). The time schedule has been approved aimed at starting the consultant's contract mid-February 2019.

Item 3.d. The 2017 Financial Report was adopted.

Item 3.e. The TER Programme of Work for 2019 was approved as amended. The 46th regular session of the Committee together with the TER Workshop will be held in Brno (Czech Republic) on 23 – 26 April 2019 and the 47th session in Geneva in November 2019. There will also take place an extraordinary TER SC session on February 6th, 2019 in Belgrade to finalize the selection procedure for the consultant on HS Master Plan Phase 2.

Item 3.f. The 2019 TER Budget was approved as amended.

Item 3.g. The Committee set the deadline for comments to the final draft TER 2018 Backbone Network Annual Report at 15 December 2018. 31 December 2018 was established as deadline for comments and National Coordinators' positions with regard to the future structure of the Report (the 2018 proposed or the new one with extended data demand).

Annexes: 4