



**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE**



RESTRICTED
TEM/56
20 June 2007
ENGLISH ONLY

**TRANS-EUROPEAN NORTH-SOUTH MOTORWAY (TEM)
Steering Committee**

Forty-seventh Session

13 – 15 June 2007, Krakow, Poland

REPORT

PARTICIPATION

1. The forty-seventh session of the TEM Steering Committee took place in Krakow, Poland on 13-15 June 2007. Representatives of Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey participated in the session. The Director of the Partners for Roads Programme of the Dutch Government, as well as the representative of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the TEM Project Manager also took part. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1 to the report.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. Mr. M. Hantak, TEM Project Manager and Mr. M. Arman, the outgoing Chairman opened the session welcoming the participants and thanking the Polish organizers for its excellent preparation.

3. In his address, Mr. Michalis Adamantiadis, the Chief of the Transport and Infrastructure Development Section of the UNECE Transport Division, thanked the Polish Government and the General Directorate of the National Roads and Motorways for hosting the meeting. He also conveyed to the participants the greetings from Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer, Director of the Transport Division, UNECE. He expressed the appreciation of the Executing Agency for the progress of the TEM Project and stressed the importance of the TEM Master Plan work, as well as the challenges facing the Project in the future including its possible involvement in the development of Euro - Asian links.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (TEM/WP.274)

4. The provisional agenda of the session, presented in Annex 2 of the report, was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. Mr. K. Nemeč (Austria) and Mr. S. Popov (Bulgaria) were elected Chairman and Rapporteur of the session, respectively.

REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER (TEM/WP.275)

6. Introducing his report, the Project Manager pointed out that all the activities in the reporting period have been carried out in conformity with the TEM Programmes of Work for 2006 and 2007. He continued with a detailed description of the international activities and contacts of the Project, commencing with the very close co-operation with the UNECE, especially with regard to the TEM Master Plan Follow-up actions.

7. In the framework of the discussion on the Project Manager's report, Mr. Adamantiadis (UNECE) expressed his appreciation for the excellent work done by the TEM PCO and the Project Manager during the reporting period.

8. A preliminary discussion was initiated by the Romanian representatives on the possibilities and ways of the TEM Project's participation in the Euro – Asian links' activities. The UNECE and the TEM Project Manager were requested to submit to the next session of the Committee a background paper on this topic, taking into account the conclusions of the ITC WP.5 meeting to be held in September 2007 and the recommendations contained in the UNECE-UNESCAP study on developing Euro-Asian transport links.

9. The Steering Committee noted with satisfaction the report of the Project Manager, endorsed it and expressed its appreciation for the excellent results reached during the reporting period.

REPORT ON THE TEM MASTER PLAN FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES (TEM/WP.276)

10. The TEM PCO distributed and introduced the final version of the Integrated Report on Comparison of the TEM and TER Master Plan Backbone Networks and on Implementation of the Priority Projects in 2006.

11. In the framework of the ensuing discussion, some comments and proposals for modifications and/or extensions of both the TEM as well as the Master Plan backbone networks were raised by the Bulgarian, Romanian and Slovenian representatives. Since these interventions were not addressed to the submitted document, which represented the static picture of the

existing state-of-the-art, the conclusion was arrived at that the proposed TEM network changes would be dealt with under the item 5 of the agenda.

12. The representatives of Turkey voiced some concerns towards the report's comparison of the Master Plan backbone network with the High Level Group multimodal axes.

13. Since these concerns were directed not to the Integrated report itself, but to the EC-HLG work chaired by de Palacio, the Steering Committee agreed that the Turkish representatives would formulate a special paragraph to reflect their country's concerns on the EC-HLG results to be sent by 30 June 2007 to the TEM PCO, in order to be inserted at the appropriate place to the integrated report. In case that no input is received by the set deadline the PCO may consider that the road (TEM) part of the Integrated report and implementation of priority projects in 2006 is finalised and approved.

14. With these conclusions, the Steering Committee endorsed the road part of the Integrated Report and agreed that the PCO and the UNECE proceed with its publication and distribution, as appropriate.

15. The Project Manager introduced the document TEM/WP.276 item by item.

16. In the framework of the discussion on the elaboration of proposals on modifications of the Master Plan backbone network in 2008, the Romanian delegation reiterated its proposal to include to this network the link Ploesti – Brasov – Cluj Napoca – Oradea – Bors and further proposed its extension through Hungary and Slovakia to Rzeszow in Poland. This proposal was endorsed by the Hungarian and Polish representatives. The Polish representative also recommended to extend this link northwards up to Bialystok. These proposals were approved, pending the confirmation of Slovakia with regard to the section linked to its territory.

17. The Steering Committee also undertook a preliminary discussion regarding the 2008 review of the Master Plan.

18. The Steering Committee agreed that on the basis of consultation among the TEM and TER Project Managers, UNECE and international consultants at the next ITC WP.5 meeting, the first draft of the respective TOR would be formulated and submitted for examination to the group of experts at one of the TEM meetings in autumn this year. The final draft will be submitted for approval to the next Steering Committee session.

19. The following TOR items may be considered:

- involvement of new countries in the region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Montenegro and Albania)
- updated traffic and forecasting data (including the UNECE document on AGR network 2005 census to be published this year)

- new and revised Master Plan projects
- modification of the Master Plan backbone network taking stock of country proposals and developments, including comparisons of HLG and ADR
- revision of bottleneck's and border crossing problems
- improved data collection procedures
- funding securization taking into account the scarcity of public funds, the huge needs of infrastructure and therefore the necessity to look upon further prioritization
- operational aspects (e.g. possible identification of main backbone routes and assessment of their operational performance, ITS, ETC, etc.)
- intermodal considerations (incl. motorways of seas concept, combined transport issues, sea ports connections, freight villages).

20. The above should be considered in relation to available recourses at the PCO.

TEM MASTER PLAN BACKBONE NETWORK VIS-À-VIS THE UNECE AGR NETWORK (TEM/WP. 277)

21. The document was introduced by the consultant.

22. The Steering Committee agreed that country comments should be sent to the PCO by the end of July 2007.

23. The Turkish authorities asked to consider proposing to the UNECE the extension of the AGR network link from Tarsus Dogu to the port of Mersin. Other countries may do the same with regard to sections that are parts of the Master Plan backbone network but not of the AGR network.

TEM NETWORK EXTENSIONS

24. The Romanian delegation submitted a proposal to extend the TEM network in the country by adding to it the following links, which are also reflected on a map submitted to the meeting participants and the PCO:

- Targu Mures – Gheorgheni – Piatra Neamt - Roman;
- Arad – Oradea;
- Satu Mare – Baia Mare –Dej – Vatra Dornei – Suceava;
- Baia Mare – Zalau;
- Cluj Napoca – Dej

- Craiova –Pitesti;
- Drobeta Turnu Severin - Calafat (direct link).

25. The proposed new TEM sections in Romania were approved by the Steering Committee with the understanding that the direct link Zalau – Satu Mare would be deleted from the TEM network simultaneously.

26. The Romanian delegation also proposed to add to the TEM network the section Satu Mare – Petea (Hungarian border). The Steering Committee approved this proposal, pending the confirmation of Hungary about the extension of this link on Hungarian territory up to Nyiregyhaza.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE UNECE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

27. The UNECE representative presented information on the outcomes of the recent meetings of the ITC and its subsidiary bodies, as well as from the 62nd session of the UNECE Commission and the high level debate on secure transport infrastructure a key to regional cooperation, supplemented by the findings and conclusions of the Belarusian Transport Congress and National Workshop on Enhancing National Capacity for Facilitation of Interregional Transport along Euro-Asian Transport Links held in Minsk, Belarus on 30 May – 1 June 2007, of interest to the TEM Project.

28. He also made short references to some important European Commission's documents and decisions recently taken, to be studied and taken into account by the TEM PCO and the participating countries in the TEM Project, listed below:

- Guidelines for transport in Europe and neighbouring regions, document COM (2007) 32 final;
- Decision establishing the TEN network Executive Agency, document 2007 (2007) 60/EC;
- Freight Transport Logistics in Europe – the key to sustainable mobility, document COM (2006) 336 final;
- Proposal for a Regulation on enhancing supply chain security, document COM (2006) 79;
- Directive on the identification and designation of European Critical Infrastructure and the assessment of the need to improve their protection, document COM (2006) 787 final;

- Keep Europe moving – Sustainable mobility for our continent – Mid-term review of the European Commission's 2001 Transport White Paper, document COM (2006) 314 final.

29. The PCO informed the Committee that these documents are posted on the UNECE/TEM website.

30. The Committee asked the PCO to prepare a short note on the main issues of interest to the TEM Project contained in the above EC documents to be considered at its next session.

31. Mr. M. Goppel, Director of the Dutch Partners for Roads Programme, informed the session about the results of co-operation of this Programme with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and invited the countries present to submit their suggestions for further joint activities. The Steering Committee thanked Mr. Goppel, noted the relevant information provided and asked him to consider ways and means by that the Dutch Partners for Roads Programme could support the TEM Project in its work of reviewing the Master Plan.

32. Mr. T. Kielar, the new Polish TEM National Coordinator, presented the Polish road network and the organizational structure and activities of the General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2006 (TEM/WP.278)

33. The Project Manager presented the report and provided additional explanations. He also informed the session about the supplementary Trust Fund contributions received in 2007 and proposed to submit the respective amendment to the 2007 TEM Project budget.

34. The Committee approved the Financial report.

35. Due to the fact that the Trust Fund Contribution of US\$ 7,500 has not been raised since 1991 and that the foreseen expenditures related to the implementation of the Master Plan follow-up activities and its Final report's forthcoming review cannot be met by the present 2007 Project budget, the Committee requested the UNECE in close co-operation with the TEM PCO to submit a supplementary budget to the participating Governments at the next session of the Committee, showing the further financing that will be necessary, for discussion and decision as appropriate.

TEM STATUS AS OF 1 JANUARY 2007 (TEM/WP. 279)

36. The Project Manager reported on the actual TEM network status, covering also the TEM links in Slovenia but not these links in Armenia, since the TEM network in that country has not been approved by the Steering Committee yet.

TEM PCO STAFF

37. The information on the difficult staff situation at the PCO in Warsaw was provided by the Project Manager, who stressed that the posts of the Deputy Project Manager and Assistant Project Manager have been vacant for more than 2 years.

38. He also reminded the session that his contract would expire by the end of 2008.

39. The Steering Committee requested the UNECE to send a letter to all the participating Governments asking to propose candidates for the posts of the Project Manager as from 1 January 2009 and for the Deputy Project Manager as soon as possible.

40. The Committee will revert to this item again at its next session.

OTHER BUSINESS

41. The Chairman pointed out at the serious administrative problems created recently by following the more stringent implementation of the UNECE rules and procedures, hampering the activities of the Project and threatening its future development and continuation.

42. Mrs. J. Florian, the Hungarian TEM Deputy National Coordinator and Mr. M. Arman, the Turkish National Coordinator, presented some practical examples of the problems phased in organizing recent TEM meetings in their countries, where inter alia the bills for hotel accommodations have not been settled by the UNECE for more than six weeks after the termination of these meetings. The Committee noted that such incidents create difficulties for organizing new events and at the same time harm the reputation of the UNECE.

43. The Project Manager explained further problems which are substantially increasing his work volume for meeting the UNECE administrative requirements as well as forcing him to use his own private money in order to keep the Project operating by paying even monthly Project's utility bills and in addition resulting in the loss of the Project of VAT refunds amounting to about US\$ 3,000 – 5,000 annually, considerable delays and time consuming administrative procedures.

44. Upon additional explanations on the applicable UN rules and procedures by the UNECE representative and the ensuing discussion, the Committee as the highest decision body of the Project mandated its chairman to address a letter to the UNECE Executive Secretary summarizing the recent problems, seriously threatening the continuation of the Project and asking him to consider ways and means to remove these obstacles that hamper the TEM operational capacity and make it possible to re-open the Project accounts in Warsaw and ensuring speedier and more efficient administrative backstopping from the UNECE, enabling the TEM project to make efficient use of the TEM Trust Fund money for the activities of the Project.

45. The UNECE representative informed the session about the progress of the appointment of a new Regional Adviser in the Transport Division.

46. The Project Manager informed the session about the planned TEM meetings in the second half of the year. Using this opportunity, he asked the National Coordinators to consider the possibility of hosting the 2008 HEEP Area V meeting and to inform the PCO on the results by the end of August this year at the latest.

47. The 48th Session of the Steering Committee will be held in Geneva on 3 – 5 December 2007, depending on the availability of an appropriate conference room at the Palais des Nations.

48. The participants in the meeting expressed their gratitude to the Polish Government and to the Polish General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways for hosting the meeting and for its outstanding organization. They also voiced their appreciation to the Chairman and Rapporteur of the session for a very successful fulfillment of their demanding tasks.

49. The report on the 47th session of the Steering Committee was adopted.

* * * * *

Annexes:2