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Working Party on Rail Transport

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Trans-European Railway project

Information on the Trans-European Railway project development

Submitted by the TER Project Manager

I. Objectives of the Project

1. The main aim of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project is to improve the quality and efficiency of transport operations, to assist the integration process of European transport infrastructure systems and to develop a coherent and efficient international railway and combined transport system in accordance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Pan-European infrastructure agreements.

2. The main goals of the TER project are: the facilitation and development of coherent and efficient international railway and combined transport system among the Central and Eastern European countries (through the territories of the TER countries and between them and other European countries), contribution in absorbing of an important part of congestion in Central and Eastern Europe and reduction of environmental and safety problems on major international railways of those countries.

II. Activities in 2019

3. The Forty-eighth session of TER Steering Committee was held in Geneva in November 2019. The following decisions were taken:

(a) The Steering Committee expressed its thanks to the Government of Serbia for continuously hosting the TER Project Central Office (PCO) in Belgrade.

(b) The Steering Committee requested that the Government of the Russian Federation may wish to consider extending the contract of Mr. G. Bessonov until 2022.

(c) The Steering Committee approved Ms. M. Kopczyńska as the Deputy Project Manager – the contract will be for the 2020–2022 period.

(d) The PCO made efforts to attract countries neighbouring the TER region to participate in the Project, which inter alia resulted in the serious interest in membership expressed by Albania.

(e) After having analysed the draft of phase II of the TER High Speed Rail Master Plan the Steering Committee noted that further work needed to be done and decided to extend the deadline for its completion to 2020.

(f) The Steering Committee discussed the possibility of initiating dedicated projects/studies to be elaborated in the framework of the TER Programme of Work in the coming years. The agreed projects to be reviewed were:

(i) Study on compliance of TER countries infrastructure to technical parameters identified in international legal agreements (proposed by Bosnia and Herzegovina).

(ii) Study on development of the ETCS¹ Level 2 (proposed by Bosnia and Herzegovina).

(iii) Study on locomotives pool operation and development in the TER countries (proposed by Bosnia and Herzegovina).

(iv) New rail transport concept reflecting the recent international market needs (proposed by Slovakia).

(v) Study on development of intermodal centres including the identification of missing ones (proposed by Poland).

(vi) Project related to development of a GIS based infrastructure data tool (proposed by the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division).

4. Activities undertaken after forty-eighth Steering Committee session and before the forty-ninth session:

(a) The consultant to assist in the implementation of the Project's Programme of Work in 2020, including the elaboration of the TER Backbone Network Annual Report 2020 was selected.

(b) The data for the TER Backbone Network Annual Report 2020 was collected.

(c) The ToRs for the consultants for two projects/studies were drafted:

- study on compliance of TER countries' infrastructure to technical parameters identified in international legal agreements;
- project related to development of a GIS based infrastructure data tool.

(d) The ToR for the consultant for writing the TER Strategy 2025 was drafted.

(e) Cooperation with the WP.5/GE.4 Group of Experts on benchmarking transport infrastructure costs was continued.

5. The forty-ninth session of the Steering Committee was held virtually on 3 July 2020. The following decisions were taken:

(a) The SC welcomed the progress with TER Annual Report and the consultant will send a reminder to the countries in question with the new short deadline for providing the data needed for elaboration of the 2020 report.

(b) The HSR Master Plan report should be finalized by the Consultant in close co-operation with the Project Management in the coming months and approved at the 50th session of the Steering Committee.

(c) The SC agreed that the TER Strategy 2025 should be developed and that it should be elaborated by one consultant only. The Steering Committee established the Selection Committee to select a Consultant for this task and decided on the steps to be taken in order to expedite the INSPIRA job opening.

(d) The Steering Committee approved the ToR for the Project related to GIS and the ToR for study on compliance of TER infrastructure to technical parameters identified in

¹ European Train Control System.

international agreements. The procedures needed to select the consultants were to follow those related to the 2025 TER Strategy.

(e) The TER financial report was approved. It was agreed that a reminder to the countries that had not yet fulfilled their 2020 obligations to the TER Trust Fund be sent out. Furthermore, the Project Management will contact the Romanian authorities, asking them to appoint the new National Coordinator of the country.
