

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
29 June 2020

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics****Thirty-third session**

Geneva, 7–9 September 2020

Item 3(b) of the provisional agenda

Development of transport networks and/or links:**Trans-European Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects****Information on the Trans-European Railway project development*****Submitted by the TER Project Manager****I. Objectives of the Project**

1. The main target 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. Among the various goals of the TER project, the following may be emphasized: 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. 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.

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(c) The Steering Committee approved Ms. M. Kopczyńska as the Deputy Project Manager – the contract was concluded for the years 2020–2022.

(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 decided to extend the deadline for its completion to the year 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 GIS (proposed by the ECE Sustainable Transport Division).

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

(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 GIS.

(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.

¹ European Train Control System