



**TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE**

**TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
53rd session, 3rd December 2021**

REPORT

The 53rd session of the TER Steering Committee (SC) was held online as a Webex videoconference on 3rd December 2021.

PARTICIPATION

Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, and Turkey participated in the session. Representatives of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division (the Secretariat) and the TER Project Manager (PM) attended the meeting.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The PM welcomed the members of the SC.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda of the session (Annex 1), as submitted by the PM and amended by the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division, was approved.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The SC elected Ms Ayşe Öz (Chairwoman, TR) and Ms Małgorzata Kopczyńska (Rapporteur, PM) as its officers.

3. REPORT OF MANAGEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TER PROGRAMME OF WORK 2020 AND RELATED UNECE ACTIVITIES

a) TER projects

- presenting TER data in GIS format

The Secretariat informed the SC that the implementing phase is still ongoing as a result of IT interface issues with UNECE infrastructure. The work is being finalised and is expected to be finished in the first half of 2022.

- study on compliance of TER countries' infrastructure to technical parameters identified in international legal agreements

The PM informed the SC of the status of the project: the Inception Report has not yet been approved—the Consultant declined to incorporate part of the Polish National Coordinator's remarks. The SC decided that all the remarks will be incorporated except for one requesting to delete part of chapter 3 of the Inception report.

All member countries received the first part of the questionnaire on the technical parameters of the TER network. The Consultant is preparing the second part of the questionnaire, based on the data collected from the first part.

As this project is facing considerable delays, discussion on a deadline extension has begun. Mr Kleniewski asked whether the Consultant had submitted an official request for the extension of his contract. The Secretariat informed the SC that such a request has not been submitted.

SC adopted the proposal of Mr. Nikolic to contact the consultant and request that he answers whether he is able to finish his work until the end of this year (according to the contract). If not, what new deadline he proposes. The answer is expected by 10th December. It was emphasized that lack of data from the TER members cannot in any way be a reason for the work not continuing.

b) TER Strategy 2025

Mr Nikolic informed the SC that the final draft of the TER Strategy 2025 is soon to be completed. It is being edited by UNECE, which is acting on the remarks made by the TER National Coordinators.

c) Programme of Work 2022

The Programme of Work 2022 (Annex 2), as submitted by the PM and amended by the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division, was approved. TER SC asked UNECE to explore possibilities of organizing a second SC meeting in 2022 in-person in Geneva. Furthermore, UNECE proposed that, if the epidemiological situation allows, the first TER SC meeting could be merged with the TER workshop and organized in person in one of TER member country (or in Geneva).

4. Administrative matters

a) Status of TER Trust Fund Contributions and Expenditures 2021

UNECE informed the SC that the 2020 TER Trust Fund Contributions and Expenditures Report will be submitted in due time for the SC approval. UNECE informed the SC that

12 member countries paid their contributions for 2021. A reminder to member States which did not contribute so far had been sent. Total expenditure for 2020 was USD 147,232, and for 2021 (at the time of writing): USD 22,777 which leaves the project with a healthy budget reserve.

b) TER Cost Plan 2022 Budget – statement

The PM presented the proposal for the budget for 2022. It does not differ significantly from that of 2021: only the figures for consultancy in 2022 are lower. Overall expenditures of USD 293,888 are planned.

c) Attachment to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement for Project phase 2021–2025

Considering that the TER Strategy 2025 has not yet been adopted, UNECE kindly proposed that the SC agree to extend the current Trust Fund Agreement (TFA) until June 2022. As a result of this delay, the new TFA will be valid from 2022 to 2026.

d) TER consultant

The PM proposed that two consultants be selected for 2022. UNECE explained the possible procedures of consultant selection. If the contract lasts less than six months, it is possible to invite at least three candidates to apply for the position; if the contract lasts more than six months, it is required to proceed using Inspira. The PM proposed that the first consultant collects historical TER data and organises it, and updates the TER Annual Report 2020. The second consultant would draft the TER Annual Report 2021 and other TER documents. The SC requested that the PM prepares the ToRs and the selection criteria for these posts. The SC adopted a decision defining the Selection Committee as: Mr. Kleniewski, Ms. Oz and Ms. Kopczynska.

e) Host country agreement for 2022

UNECE informed the SC that the Serbian government is willing to host the PCO for the next years. UNECE is expecting the official letter on that matter.

f) TER manager contract

TER SC commended TER PM Ms. Kopczynska on project management engagement and agreed that Ms. Kopczynska should remain TER SC project manager in the 2022-23 period subject to offer from the Government of Poland. Mr. Kleniewski reconfirmed the willingness of Poland to propose Ms. Kopczynska – official letter will be sent in December.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

The PM encouraged the SC members to participate in the 2nd session of the HUBS WG to be held on 13-15 December 2021. She also asked for help in directing the questionnaire on costs of inland transport infrastructure maintenance and operations to the rail infrastructure experts.

6. ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS

The main decisions of the 53rd session of the TER Steering Committee:

- The consultant hired for preparing a study on compliance of TER countries' infrastructure to technical parameters identified in international legal agreements will declare his ability to finish his work in line with the provisions of the contract or set a new deadline to be approved by the SC;
- The Programme of Work 2022 was adopted;
- The Cost Plan 2022 was adopted;
- The SC agreed to extend the current Trust Fund Agreement until June 2022;
- The SC agreed that new Attachment to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement will be valid for 2022-2026 period.

The SC extended its thanks to the Chairwoman for her excellent services. The report of the 53rd TER SC session and the main decisions will be adopted via written procedure.

Annexes: 2