



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

**TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
54th session, 21st June 2022**

REPORT

The 54th session of the TER Steering Committee (SC) was held online as a Webex videoconference on 21st June 2022.

PARTICIPATION

Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, 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 and UNECE welcomed the members of the SC.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda of the session (Annex 1) was adopted.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The SC elected Mr Pavol Hartl (Chairman, SK) and Ms Małgorzata Koczyńska (Rapporteur, PM) as its officers.

3. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT

a) on the implementation of the TER Programme of Work 2022

The PM informed the SC of the status of the implementation of the TER Programme of Work 2022. She submitted a proposal that the new Trust Fund Agreement be prepared for 2023-2027. She announced that Armenia has nominated a National Coordinator. The PM emphasised that some of the goals of the Programme of Work 2022 can be achieved after the hiring of a consultant, whose task is to support the implementation of the programme.

b) proposal to continue, within TER and TEM, work launched by the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs

The PM presented a proposal concerning the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs (WP.5/GE.4 of the ITC). The final session of the group was held on 23-24 May 2022. The final report is being prepared for translation and will be presented at the WP.5 session in September. After this session, WP.5 may address the TER SC regarding the continuation of the group's work. As soon as the report is finalised, it will be sent to the TER National Coordinators. The work concentrated on construction, upgrade, and renewal; now, it is intended to shift the focus of the work to prepare an additional analysis of transport infrastructure maintenance and operations, including best practices and integrating the data and analytical findings into the UNECE International Transport Infrastructure Observatory (ITIO). The PM recalled that the work of the group was open to all interested states from the ECE region. It was emphasised that this initiative is a great opportunity to strengthen the collaboration of TER with its sister project – TEM (Trans-European North-South Motorway), and other UNECE bodies. The TER budget needs are not known yet and if any – they will be consulted with the SC and submitted for its approval. The scope of work will also be submitted for approval of the SC. The preliminary interest of the SC was expressed, without any obligations at this stage.

4. TER PROJECTS

a) a study on compliance of TER countries' infrastructure to technical parameters identified in international legal agreements – status of the project

The consultant, Mr Enes Čovrk was not able to attend the SC session. The PM informed the SC that the Progress Report 1 on a study was adopted. The Progress Report 2 has been sent to the National Coordinators for their approval. They were requested for their remarks to be submitted by 30th June 2022. According to the information provided by Mr Čovrk the Final Report will be submitted by 15th July. The Polish National Coordinator confirmed again his reservations over the unacceptable time exceeded of the work of the consultant but refrained from opposing this work.

b) presenting TER data in a GIS format - presentation of the results and the discussion

The consultant, Mr Peter Los, delivered a presentation on functionality of the tool for presenting TER data in a GIS format. The work is almost completed. The final adjustments are being made, including inserting the original names of the nodal infrastructure. The link for testing of the tool, along with a user manual, will be sent to the National Coordinators, and the PM. Once this is received, comments are to be sent to UNECE by 10 September 2022 so that final adjustments can be made and the tool adopted at the November session of the SC. The SC thanked for the excellent work of Mr Los, and the colleagues from UNECE, especially Mr Dagan and Mr Dionori.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) Adoption of ToR for consultant to support implementation of the TER Programme of Work 2022

The PM explained the procedure of selecting of a consultant to support implementation of the TER Programme of Work 2022. On 20th June 2022 the National Coordinators received the Terms of Reference for the consultant for the revision of this document by 30th June 2022. According to the decision of the 53rd TER SC Ms Öz (TR), Mr Kleniewski (PL), and Ms Kopczyńska (PM) serve as the members of the selection committee. A decision on the final approval of the candidate suggested by the selection committee will be taken by the National Coordinators via e-mail exchange.

b) Status of TER Trust Fund Contributions and Expenditures 2021 and information on expenditures in 2022

The Secretariat informed that all member states submitted their contributions for 2020 and 2021. Letters for contribution for 2022 will be sent in the next days by the Secretariat. The expenditure in 2021 was 32,267 USD; in 2022 for the moment of reporting - 19,588 USD. Most of them are related to the travel expenses for the sessions of the UNECE bodies.

c) Extension of the TER PCO host country agreement

The PM informed that Serbia have sent a letter for extension of the Host Country Agreement. After the procedure is completed the agreement will be extended until the end of June 2024. The SC expressed its gratitude to the Serbian Government for hosting the office of TER project in Belgrade. The discussion on the status of the office after June 2024 will be held during the 55th SC session. Taking into account present, unpredictable developments in the TER region, Poland – thanking Serbia for their obligation – offered potential readiness to host the TER PCO after June 2024.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The Polish National Coordinator submitted a proposal to issue a joint TER SC Statement in the light of the current situation and the UN General Assembly and UNECE Executive Committee decisions resulting from this situation. No consensus on this proposal was reached.

UNECE and the PM reminded and encouraged the SC members to participate in the upcoming UNECE meetings:

- 6th session of the Group of Experts on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock (SC.2/PIRRS) to be held on 29-30 August 2022;
- 4th session of the Group of Experts on International Railway Passenger Hubs (SC.2/HUBS) to be held on 5-7 September 2022;
- 35th session of the WP.5 to be held on 5-7 September 2022;
- 65th session of the WP.24 to be held on 19-21 October 2022;
- 75th session of the SC.2 to be held on 16-18 November 2022.

All these meetings will be held in hybrid form – in Geneva and via videoconference.

The 55th session of the TER Steering Committee will be held on 15th November in hybrid form – in Geneva and via videoconference.

7. ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS

The main decisions of the 54th session of the TER Steering Committee:

- A proposal that the new Trust Fund Agreement be prepared for 2023-2027 was adopted;
- A proposal to continue, within TER and TEM, work launched by the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs – there were no objections;
- The Progress Report 2 on a study on compliance of TER countries' infrastructure to technical parameters identified in international legal agreements – remarks of the National Coordinators to be sent by 30th June 2022;
- Tests of the tool for presenting TER data in a GIS format – remarks of the National Coordinators, the Secretariat, and the PM to be sent by 10th September 2022;
- The Terms of Reference for the consultant to support implementation of the TER Programme of Work 2022 - remarks of the National Coordinators to be sent by 30th June 2022.

The SC extended its thanks to the Chairman for his excellent leadership of its 54th Session and to the PM for her active involvement and new initiatives. The report of the 54th TER SC session and the main decisions will be adopted via written procedure.