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TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)  
PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE

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TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)  
Steering Committee  
55th session, 15 November 2022

**REPORT**

The 55th session of the TER Steering Committee (SC) was held in a hybrid format, as a videoconference and in Geneva, on 15 November 2022.

**PARTICIPATION**

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Türkiye participated in the session. Representatives of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division (the UNECE) 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, was approved.

**2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

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

### **3. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TER PROGRAMME OF WORK 2022**

The SC was informed by the PM about the implementation of the Programme of Work 2022. The key outcomes are as follows:

- The attachment to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement for Project phase 2023–2027 has been updated in accordance with the TER Strategy 2025;
- The TER activities were presented at the 84th session of the Inland Transport Committee and the 35th session of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5);
- Mr Saša Džumhur was selected as a consultant for, inter alia, preparing the TER Backbone Network Report 2023.

### **4. TER projects – new proposals**

- a) Continuation of work started by the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs (WP.5/GE.4)

Mr Roel Janssens informed the SC about the activities of the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs. The SC took the decision to continue the work of the Group under the auspices of TER. The Secretariat and the PM will prepare information about the scope of the work and the next steps to be taken.

- b) Adaptation to climate change – cooperation with the Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport (WP.5/GE.3)

Mr Łukasz Wyrowski (the UNECE) informed the SC about the activities of the Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport. The survey on impacts of climate-related events on transport assets has been distributed, with the deadline set for 31 March 2023. Moreover, an official letter on this matter will be sent to the relevant ministries. The TER members, by 31 January 2023, can propose a specific rail asset to be tested in terms of its resilience to the climate change hazard. Either high temperature or heavy precipitation can be considered. A case study that outlines the practical outputs is expected. The UNECE and the PM will prepare information about the scope of the work, the budget, and the next steps to be taken.

### **5. TER projects – ongoing**

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

According to the information sent during the 55th TER SC session to the PM by the Consultant, the draft Final Report will be provided by the Consultant by 30 November 2022. It is expected that all remarks of the TER Members and

UNECE will be incorporated into the report. If the document covers all of the remarks that have been submitted to the Consultant by 15 November 2022, it will be reviewed by the SC and UNECE by 8 December 2022. The Consultant will be provided with the remarks on 9 December 2022. The deadline for final improvements, based on the 9 December remarks was set for 15 December 2022. Any breach of the above conditions, both deadlines and the content of the Final Report, will result in immediate termination of the Consultant's contract. If the final version is submitted by 15 December 2022, the UNECE, on 16 December 2022, will provide the TER National Coordinators with a table, which presents whether the specific points of the Terms of Reference have been fulfilled. It was proposed that an extra TER Steering Committee dedicated to this project be convened on 20 December 2022. No TER Member was against, Poland abstained.

**b) Presenting TER data in GIS format**

Mr Martin Dagan (the UNECE) informed the SC about the improvements that have been implemented and assured the SC that the work is being finalised and aligns with the Terms of Reference requirements. After completion, the TER Members will be provided with a link to the test version of the tool. The TER Members may request that the Consultant, within the terms of his contract, make adjustments.

## **6. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**a) Status of TER Trust Fund Contributions and Expenditures 2022**

The UNECE informed the SC that twelve member states had paid their contributions for 2022. A reminder to the member state that has not yet contributed has been sent. Total expenditure for 2021 was USD 32,370, and for 2022 (at the time of writing) USD 42,562. This leaves the project with a healthy budget reserve.

**b) TER PCO host country agreement for 2023**

The UNECE informed the TER SC that Serbia had sent a letter informing the SC of its willingness to extend the Host Country Agreement. The procedure is completed, and the agreement is extended until the end of June 2024.

**c) Attachment to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement for Project phase 2023–2027**

The attachment to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement for Project phase 2023–2027, as presented by the PM, was approved.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

No additional topics were raised.

## 8. ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS

The key decisions of the 55th session of the TER SC:

- to continue the work started by the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs;
- to involve TER in the work concerning adaptation to climate change; to make efforts to respond by 31 March 2023 to the survey on the impacts of climate-related events on transport assets; to select by 31 January 2023 a specific rail asset to be tested in terms of its resilience to the climate change hazard;
- to proceed as follows regarding the Final Report on a study on the compliance of TER countries' infrastructure to the technical parameters identified in international legal agreements:
  - 30 November 2022 – submission by the Consultant of the draft version of the Final Report
  - 8 December 2022 – revision of the draft version of the Final Report
  - 15 December 2022 - submission by the Consultant of the Final Report, amended if requested by the SC
  - 16 December 2022 – submission by the UNECE of a table that presents a comparison of the work with the Terms of Reference requirements;
- to approve the attachment to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement for Project phase 2023–2027.

The SC extended its gratitude to the Chairman for his excellent service. The report of the 55th TER SC session and its main decisions will be adopted via written procedure.

Annexes: 1