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

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**TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)  
Steering Committee  
56th session, 15 June 2023**

**REPORT**

The 56th session of the TER Steering Committee (SC) was held in a hybrid format, as a videoconference and in Gdańsk, on 15 June, 2023.

**PARTICIPATION**

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, and Türkiye participated in the session. Representatives of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division (UNECE), and the TER Project Manager (PM) attended the meeting.

**OPENING OF THE SESSION**

The Polish TER National Coordinator, Mr Jerzy Kleniewski, 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 Jerzy Kleniewski (Chairman, PL) 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;
- TER data in GIS format is available. TER Members can still provide their comments - TER consultant can make necessary adjustments;
- Two new projects have been proposed. Continuation of work started by the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs will be considered in the future. The TER SC has been focusing on the stress-test of rail asset to climate change hazards;
- A study on the compliance of TER countries' infrastructure to the technical parameters identified in international legal agreements – this work hasn't been finished. Further steps were discussed under item 7 of the Agenda;
- Work on TER Backbone Network Annual Report 2023 was initiated last year. The results were discussed under item 5 of the Agenda.

### **4. TER PROJECT PROPOSAL - STRESS-TEST OF RAIL ASSET TO CLIMATE CHANGE HAZARDS**

Mr Łukasz Wyrowski (UNECE) provided the presentation about stress-test of rail asset to climate change hazards. No TER member has proposed a specific rail asset to be tested in terms of its resilience to the climate change hazard so far. In order to explore this topic, a possible workshop was proposed, back-to-back with the 58th TER SC session in the spring of 2024. The TER SC members were encouraged to attend the meeting of the Group of Experts on Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Inland Transport to be held on 30-31 October, 2023.

### **5. TER BACKBONE NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

Mr Saša Džumhur, TER Consultant, informed about the results of his work on drafting TER Backbone Network Annual Report 2023. Some parts of the report are still to be clarified with the TER member states. Also, expected status of the TER Backbone Network is still to be provided by some of the TER member states. The SC decided that TER Backbone Network Annual Report 2023 be adopted subject to final comments to be sent by 15 July, 2023; the comments must be included by the end of July, 2023.

## **6. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

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

The UNECE informed the SC that all thirteen member states had paid their contributions for 2021-2022. Six member states contributed for 2023. Total expenditure for 2022 was USD 36,376, and for 2023 (at the time of writing) USD 19,393

### **b) Project Management – status**

The Memorandum of agreement between the United Nations and the Polish Ministry of Infrastructure on loan of the services of Ms Małgorzata Kopczyńska as the TER Project Manager for 2022-2023 is going to be signed soon. UNECE is waiting for confirmation from the Polish Ministry of Infrastructure on the necessary text.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Polish TER National Coordinator emphasized the new opportunity for the whole transport system expressed by the UN General Assembly Resolution No. 77/282 adopted on 26th April 2023 „Building global resilience and promoting sustainable development through regional and interregional infrastructure connectivity”. Such new legal regime supports efforts arranged by the TER Project as well.

A study on the compliance of TER countries’ infrastructure to the technical parameters identified in international legal agreements – it was decided that the PCO will draft the Terms of Reference and organise the procedure of setting up the Selection Committee for hiring a consultant who would conclude the study.

The PM informed about the 15th International Railway Fair – TRAKO, to be held on 19-22 September, 2023 in Gdańsk.

The 57th TER Steering Committee session will take place on 14th November, 2023 in Geneva, back-to-back with SC.2 on 15-17th November, 2023.

The Participants of the 56<sup>th</sup> TER Steering Committee expressed their much appreciation for arrangements, preparation and content of the event to the Polish hosts and voiced their position to continue such tradition by organizing spring SC TER session with a workshop.

## **8. ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS**

The key decisions of the 56th session of the TER SC:

- to adopt the report of the TER PM on the implementation of the TER Programme of Work 2022;
- to explore the topic of the stress-test of rail asset to climate change hazards;
- to adopt TER Backbone Network Annual Report 2023 subject to

final comments to be sent by 15 July, 2023; the comments must be included by the end of July, 2023;

- to continue work on the study on the compliance of TER countries' infrastructure to the technical parameters identified in international legal agreements; the PCO was obliged to draft the ToR and organise the Selection Committee for selecting a new consultant.

The report of the 56th TER SC session and its main decisions will be adopted via written procedure.

Annexes: 1