



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

**TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
39th Session, 25-26 November 2015
Geneva, Switzerland**

F i n a l d r a f t

REPORT

The 39th session of the TER Steering Committee was held on 25-26 November 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland.

PARTICIPATION

The countries that participated in the meeting were: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Serbia, Russian Federation and Turkey. Representatives of the UNECE Transport Division and Mr. G. Bessonov, the TER Project Manager, also attended the session. List of participants is attached (Annex 1).

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The outgoing Chairman, Mr. Ibrahim Halil Cevik, welcomed the members of the Steering Committee in Geneva and opened the session.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda of the session was approved as submitted (Annex 2).

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The participants in the Steering Committee elected as its officers Mr. Ibrahim H. Cevik (Chairman, Turkey) and Mr. Markus Radl (Rapporteur, Austria).

3. REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

1. The Project Manager informed the Steering Committee on the developments that took place during the implementation of the agreed Programme of Work in 2015. The Project Manager focused his efforts during 2015 on enhancing discussions with Belarus, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Ukraine in order for these countries to become member states of the project. He also reported on results of his discussions with several international organizations and on cooperation with the UNECE group of experts. His detailed report is attached as Annex 3 to this report.

a. TER Network and the Pan European Transport Corridors, Euro-Asian Transport Corridors and corridors of neighboring regions;

2. The Steering Committee was informed by the Project Manager of his efforts to attract countries neighboring to the project in order to join it and on his work in strengthening the connectivity of the TER network by making use of established contacts with the European Commission, OSJD and the EATL Project.

3. More specifically, the Project Manager informed the Steering Committee about his efforts and discussions with Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Hungary in order for these countries to become members of the TER Project. The Steering Committee decided to support the efforts of the Project Manager and requested him to report results of these efforts at its next session.

b. High Speed Rail Master Plan;

4. The Steering Committee approved the Terms of Reference of the consultant for the High Speed Master Plan project as amended. The Steering Committee agreed that this project should be split into two years (2016 – 2017) and the budget per year should not exceed the amount of USD 20,000. Travel and accommodation expenses related to the participation of the consultant in the Steering Committee sessions are not included and they should be provided to him/her separately.

5. The Steering Committee reviewed 3 CVs received from the Project Manager. The Polish delegates supported the candidature of Mr. Szafranski. After taking into consideration the demanding tasks and objectives of the work to be undertaken, the Committee decided to select Mr. Helmut Adelsberger for consultant of the first phase (2016) of the Project by majority.

c. Promotion of TER and relevant activities;

6. The Committee requested the Project Manager to incorporate comments received by Governments to the draft marketing material (brochure), to prepare the final draft and to distribute it to the TER countries for their final approval not later than on 8 January 2016. Furthermore, the Steering Committee decided that this marketing material (brochure) should be prepared by a professional designer and therefore requested the Project Manager to receive and distribute to TER Countries three (3) offers from professional designers based on the following technical characteristics:

- The brochure should be 8 pages,
- The size of pages should be A5,
- 500 copies of this brochure should be prepared.

7. The Steering Committee requested the Project Manager to proceed with the above mentioned tasks as soon as possible in order to have a decision not later than on 15 January 2016.

d. Rail Financing;

8. The Steering Committee was informed by the Project Manager on:

- Project proposals to be financed under specific financial sources / tools. The delegates were asked to send their proposals in order to discuss them during the 40th Steering Committee session;
- The overview prepared by the Project Managers on available financial sources for the elaboration of such studies.

9. Due to administrative burdens the Project Manager reported that none of the above mentioned tasks was accomplished. The Steering Committee reiterated its interest in finding extra budgetary financial resources and requested the Project Manager to proceed with appropriate analysis and provide relevant information at the next session.

e. Ports Hinterland Connections;

10. The Steering Committee was informed by the UNECE secretariat on current work of the secretariat on ports hinterland connections and on possible contribution of the TER Project to its work.

11. The Steering Committee decided since not many activities are being undertaken at the moment on ports hinterland connections to postpone discussions on this issue for one of its next sessions.

f. Safety at level crossings;

12. The Steering Committee was informed by the ECE secretariat on the results of the meetings of the Group of Experts on Improving Safety at Level Crossings. No decision was taken regarding cooperation between the TER project and the relevant ECE Group of Experts.

g. Monitoring the Implementation of the TER Master Plan Revision in 2015;

13. The Steering Committee requested the National Coordinators to send to the TER PCO (Project Central Office) by 31 May 2016 the report (3 templates) on implementation of the Master Plan in 2015 and to indicate the changes of status of their TER backbone network as of 1st January 2016 on the respective TERSTAT maps of their countries.

h. 2015 Status of the TER Backbone Network

14. The Steering Committee requested the TER PCO to submit the final summary report on implementation of the TER Master Plan Revision in 2015 and the report on the 2016 status of the TER backbone network to the 41st session of the Steering Committee.

4. DECISIONS ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT

a. TER Cost Plan 2015 Budget – statement

15. The Steering Committee took note of the information provided by the UNECE representative on the status of the 2015 cost plan, which documented the sound financial situation of the Project and it expressed its appreciation to the UNECE and the Project Management.

b. Status of TER Trust Fund Contributions

16. The Steering Committee took note of the information provided by the UNECE representative, according to which the great majority of the member countries contributed to the TER Trust Fund in 2015 and requested the UNECE to send reminding letter to the remaining countries of their pending obligations.

c. TER Programme of Work and Budget for 2016

17. The Committee decided that its 40th session should take place in March/April 2016 and requested the TER PCO to communicate with the TER member states in order to find a respective host country. The 41st session will take place in Geneva back to back with the session of the SC.2 (22 – 24 November 2016).

18. The Committee requested the Project Manager to organize a technical workshop on a theme to be selected by member states in June 2016. The Committee requested the Project Manager to inform the National Coordinators about the date and place of each TER SC session/meeting/workshop at least two months in advance.

19. The Committee adopted its Programme of Work for 2016 as amended. The Committee also adopted its Budget for 2016 as amended. The TER PCO will send both documents by e-mail to the member countries by **1st December**, in order to be finalized by 10th December at the latest.

d. Host country agreement with Serbia

20. The Committee was informed on the latest developments by Serbian and UNECE representative and approved the steps taken by the Government of Serbia and by the UNECE aimed at the conclusion of the Memorandum of Agreement on hosting the TER PCO by Serbia and asked both parties to expedite these works so that the PCO could start its work in Belgrade as of 1 January 2016.

e. TER Managers contracts

21. The Steering Committee greatly appreciated the work of Mr. Bessonov and Mr. Zimmer performed in the course of 2014 and 2015 and supported the extension of Project Manager's engagement for another two years, provided that the Russian Federation would further kindly offer his services for these two additional years. Declarations of interest to offer the Project Manager should be then acknowledged to the UNECE in writing. The Russian Federation expressed its readiness to do so with regard to the Project Manager, Mr Gennady Bessonov.

22. The Austrian representative informed SC that administrative procedure for signing of Mr. Zimmer's contract will be finalized in next few days. The contract, from Austrian side, will be signed by Austrian Railways (OBB). The UNECE representative informed session on OBB letter to UNECE, and asked Austrian representative to provide Letter of Authorization (proxy) from the Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology to OBB in due time, in order to speed up administrative procedures. Taken into account Mr. Zimmer previous engagement in TER, and with prerequisite that Deputy Project Manager's contract is signed in due time, SC supported engagement of Mr. Zimmer as Deputy Project Manager for another two years – provided that Austria would kindly offer his services for another two years. Declaration of interest from Austrian side should be sent to UNECE in writing.

f. TER Co-Operation Trust Fund Agreement for 2016 – 2020

23. The Attachment to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement for 2016 – 2020 was adopted as amended by Turkish delegation.

5. ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- 4.b) The Committee requested the UNECE to send reminding letter to the remaining countries of their pending 2015 Trust Fund obligations.

- 4.c) The Committee decided that its 40th session should take place in March/April 2016 and requested the TER PCO to communicate with the TER member states in order to find the respective host country. The 41st session will take place in Geneva back to back with the session of the SC.2 (22 – 24 November 2016).
The Committee also requested the Project Management to organize a technical workshop on a theme to be selected by member states in June 2016.
The Committee adopted its Programme of Work and Budget for 2016 as amended.
The TER PCO will send both these documents by e-mail to the member countries by 1 December, to be finalized by 10 December at the latest.
The Committee also requested the Project Management to inform the National Coordinators about the date and place of each TER SC session/meeting/workshop at least two months in advance.
- 4.d) The Committee approved the steps aimed at the conclusion of the Memorandum of Agreement on hosting the TER PCO by Serbia and asked both responsible parties to expedite their work so that the PCO could start its work in Belgrade as of 1 January 2016.
- 4.e) The Committee supported the engagement of Mr. Bessonov as the Project Manager and of Mr. Zimmer as the Deputy Project Manager for another two years, provided that the Russian Federation and Austria would offer their services for these years. The respective Declarations of interest should be sent to the UNECE in writing.
- 4.f) The Attachment to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement for 2016 – 2020 was adopted as amended.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

24. The UNECE representative informed the Committee about the limited capacity of archives in Geneva which may be used also for storing the most important TER paper documents.

25. In accordance with the newly established UN UMOJA administration system, the Project Manager was asked to keep the new TER documents in both paper and electronic forms and create electronic version of all relevant TER paper documents.

7. ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS

26. The Steering Committee adopted its main decisions and requested the Project Manager to prepare the final and full report of the session in order to be approved by the TER countries in next 10 days following the session.

The Steering Committee extended its thanks to the UNECE Transport Division for kindly hosting of the session, to the Project Management for the efficient organization of the session and to the Chairman and Rapporteur for their valuable services.

Annexes: 3