



TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
PROJECT CENTRAL OFFICE

TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
44th Session, 4 - 5 June 2018
Vienna, Austria

REPORT

The 44th session of the TER Steering Committee was held in the premises of the ÖBB (Austrian Federal Railways) Headquarters in Vienna.

PARTICIPATION

The countries that participated in the meeting were: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. Representatives of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division, TER Project Managers and the UNECE/TER Consultant also attended the session. List of participants is attached (Annex 1).

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr. Gennady Bessonov, the TER Project Manager, welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and opened the session.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The participants in the Steering Committee elected as its officers Ms. Ivana Bozic (Chairman, Serbia) and Mr. Mustafa Kovacevic (Rapporteur, Bosnia and Herzegovina).

3. APPROVAL OF THE REPORT ON THE 43rd SESSION

The report on the 43rd session of the Steering Committee was approved as amended reflecting the comments of the representatives of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division.

4. REPORT OF THE MANAGERS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

1. The TER Project Manager and his Deputy informed the Steering Committee of developments that took place during the reporting period, stressing especially the finished first phase of the High Speed Master Plan study, draft TOR for its second phase, final version of the TER brochure, proposals aimed at the updating of the UNECE/TER webpage, successful management of the Project's budget and extension of the Host Country Agreement with Serbia.

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 Managers of their efforts to reestablish activities of non-active member countries, then attract countries neighboring to the TER region to join the TER Project and of their work aimed at strengthening the connectivity of the TER backbone network, making use of the established contacts with the European Commission, OSJD and the EATL Project.

3. The Steering Committee noted these efforts of the Project Managers and took note of the report.

b. High Speed Rail Master Plan;

4. The Deputy Project Manager introduced the final draft TOR for elaboration of the second phase of the study on TER High Speed Rail Master Plan based on the results of the first phase as well as on inputs from the National Coordinators.

5. The Steering Committee requested the Project Managers to send these TOR to the National Coordinators and to the UNECE by 8 June at the latest and established a deadline for these comments at 22 June 2018. The final TOR together with the selection criteria for potential consultants will be then send to UNECE as inputs to the INSPIRA tendering process.

c. TER Programme of Work;

6. Mr. A. Zimmer, the Deputy Project Manager, informed the Committee about the status of implementation of the TER Programme of Work for 2018, preparations for the 45th session of the Steering Committee to be held back to back with the SC.2 session on 20. November 2018 in Geneva and about the planned workshops to take place in the first half of 2019 in the Czech Republic and/or Russian Federation up to the decision of TER SC.
7. The National Coordinators were invited to submit the proposals for hosting the 46th session of the Committee in the second trimester of 2019. In this connection, the representatives of the Czech Republic and Russian Federation were also asked to consider the possibility to couple it with one of the planned workshops.
8. The Steering Committee agreed with the proposal to update the existing UNECE/TER webpage in order to replace its outdated folders by the actual ones with the understanding that the updated webpage will serve as an input to the general restructuring of the whole UNECE webpage planned to start in November 2018.
9. In order to strengthen the co-operation with the UNECE Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs, the template aimed at the specific data collection for this purpose will be sent out for information by the end of June 2018. The National Coordinators were asked to support this activity in their countries.

d. TER Network Annual Report 2018;

10. The UNECE/TER Consultant presented the first draft of the comprehensive TER Network Annual Report 2018, summing up the previous two reports on TER Status and on Master Plan Implementation and containing also the proposals and recommendations for further development of the related activities of the TER Project.
11. The Committee took note of the document and asked the remaining 3 member countries to send the respective filled in

templates to the TER PCO with a copy to the Consultant by the end of June at the latest. On the basis of the thus completed data collection, the final draft will be distributed to the National Coordinators and to the UNECE by mid-July this year. The final report, reflecting the comments received will be submitted together with the proposed new structure of the TER Network Annual Report for 2019 for approval to the next session of the Committee.

e. TER Project – future targets;

12. The Steering Committee was informed of suggestions made by its members and the Project Managers on future targets of the TER Project (Annex 3). The National Coordinators were invited to propose further future targets reflecting their needs to the TER PCO at their earliest convenience.

5. DECISIONS ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT

a. Host country agreement for 2019ff

13. The Serbian representative informed the Steering Committee about the readiness to sign the extension of the Agreement between the Government of Serbia and the United Nations on the Trans-European Railway Project Central Office in Belgrade for next two years (2019-2021). UNECE will be officially informed in due time. The UNECE representative confirmed readiness to rapidly finalize required administrative procedures.

b. TER Managers contracts

14. The representatives of Austria and Russian Federation confirmed their readiness to make available the Project Manager and his Deputy for the years 2019 and 2020. The Steering Committee, based on these confirmations decided on the extension of the signed contracts of the Project Manager and of his Deputy for these two years. The TER host country, Serbia, supports the extension of the contracts of TER Manager and TER Deputy Manager for the next period.
15. The UNECE, upon receipt of the official letters of both countries, will ask the UN Controller Office in New York for the respective approval of this decision.
16. The UNECE representative informed the Committee about the requests stated in the mechanism for engagement of the Project Manager and his Deputy described in the United Nations Administrative Instruction ST/AI/231/Rev. 1 related to Appendix D coverage. The Appendix D includes coverage in the event of the death, injury or illness of the Contractor which is attributable to the performance of services on behalf of the United Nations under the terms of the Contract. Appendix D is a 1% cost applied to the value of the expert's services stated by the sponsor

Government (approx. 450 USD per year). Based on the proposed, the Committee decided to cover the Appendix D insurance for project managers (1% from their yearly income) from TER budget.

c. TER Cost Plan and 2018 Budget statement

17. The UNECE representatives informed the Committee about the actual status of the TER cost plan and budget for 2018, manifesting the sound financial position of the TER Project.

d. TER Financial Report 2017

18. The UNECE representative, informed the Committee that the document "Report on TER Trust Fund Contributions and Expenditures – Year 2017", will be send to all National Coordinators by the end of June 2018 at the latest.

e. Status of TER Trust Contributions

19. The UNECE representative informed the Committee about the status of the contributions to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund. All the member countries except Romania fulfilled their 2017 obligations to the Fund.

20. The Steering Committee asked the National Coordinators of the countries that have not settled their 2018 obligations yet to convey to the responsible authorities the request to do so as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Steering Committee, the Project Manager and the UNECE representatives extended their thanks to the Headquarters of Austrian Federal Railways for its kind hosting of the session and at the same time expressed their gratitude to the Chairman and Rapporteur for their able performances and to the Deputy Project Manager, Mr. Andreas Zimmer for the outstanding organization of the session.

6. ADOPTION OF MAIN DECISIONS

The following main decisions were adopted:

Item 3.b. of the Agenda

The Project Managers will send the TOR for elaboration of the second phase of the High Speed Rail Master Plan to the National Coordinators and to the UNECE by 8 June 2018. The deadline for these comments was established at 22 June 2018. The final TOR together with the selection criteria for potential consultants will be then sent by the TER PCO to UNECE.

Item 3.c. of the Agenda

The 45th session of the Steering Committee will be held on 20. November 2018 in Geneva and National Coordinators were invited to submit the proposals for hosting the 46th session in the second quarter of 2019. The planned TER workshops will take place in the first half of 2019 in the Czech Republic and/or Russian Federation up to the TER SC decision. The participation of TER National Coordinators and experts from our member countries in Innotrans Trade Fair 2018, is beneficial, but will not be organised by TER project.

Item 3.d. of the Agenda

The draft of the TER Network Annual Report 2018, including also the missing data from some member countries, will be distributed to the National Coordinators and the UNECE by mid-July 2018. The final report, reflecting the comments received will be submitted together with the proposed new structure of the TER Network Annual Report for 2019 for approval to the next session of the Committee.

Item 3.e. of the Agenda

The National Coordinators were invited to propose future TER targets to the TER PCO as soon as possible.

Item 4.b. of the Agenda

The Steering Committee decided on the extension of the contracts of the Project Manager and of his Deputy for the years 2019 and 2020 and requested the UN to finalise their respective procedures upon receipt of the written confirmation of Austrian and Russian Governments and upon UN Controller Office approval. The Steering Committee also decided to cover the incidental insurance for the managers (1% from their yearly income) from TER budget, as suggested by UNECE representatives.

Item 4.d. of the Agenda

The TER Financial Report for 2017 will be sent by the UNECE to the National Coordinators by the end of June 2018 at the latest.

The Steering Committee adopted this report as amended.