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**OUTLINE OF THE UNECE
TRANS-EUROPEAN NORTH-SOUTH MOTORWAY (TEM)
AND THE TRANS-EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
PROJECTS**

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www.unece.org/trans/Welcome.html

Background

The UNECE TEM and TER Projects are sub-regional cooperation frameworks established in 1977 and 1990 - respectively - by the Governments of the Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Countries under the aegis of UNECE for the development of coherent road, rail and combined transport infrastructure networks in the region and the facilitation of international traffic in Europe. 16 countries are now members of TER ^{1/} and 13 countries are members of TEM ^{2/}.

The Projects are self-sustainable, supported by direct contributions from member countries to a Trust Fund established under UNECE for each Project. The members also contribute in kind by hosting the Project Central Offices, covering costs of the Project personnel, hosting events, offering the services of national experts, etc. The UNECE, as the Executing Agency of the Projects, is offering technical and administrative backstopping to the Projects.

Their organization system comprises three pillars: (a) The member countries' active participation and support through the Trust Fund Agreement nominating the *Steering Committee* as the highest administrative and political body of the projects, (b) The *Project Central Offices* TEM in Warsaw and TER in Budapest, hosted by the Governments of Poland and Hungary respectively, and the Project office Personnel, co-ordinating activities aimed at the achievement of the objectives, (c) The *National Project Offices* set up or designated in each participating country for the purpose of providing liaison between national activities and activities under the project, operating under the responsibility of the nominated *National Co-ordinator* from every member.

The annual and longer-term action plans are set by the Steering Committees and the work is done by the projects offices' personnel, *Working Groups*, *Ad hoc Expert Groups*, and when required by *external consultants*, in close co-operation with member countries.

They have, so far, been instrumental in the development and upgrading of international road and rail links in the participating countries. They have also contributed to the interoperability of the European transport systems, elaborated studies, created continuously updated TEM and TER databanks, published a large number of technical documents, guidelines, recommendations, and are working for the harmonization of management, maintenance and operational procedures of motorways and railways in the region and their integration in the Pan-European context.

Recent Activities

The support of the implementation of a short-term strategy plan aiming at the further integration of the TEM and TER Projects in the new European transport context was among the first priorities of the UNECE Transport Division during the last two years

The main directions foreseen in the strategy consist of: (a) review of priority infrastructure needs, elaboration of an updated inventory of these needs and of a realistic plan for implementation; (b) integration of TEM and TER into the Pan-European transport; (c) cooperation of TEM and TER with other fora and related initiatives aiming at the creation of the necessary synergy; and (d) increase TEM and TER Project visibility.

Based on the priorities set by the new strategy of the Projects and the emerging needs of the TEM and TER region, the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the TEM and TER Master Plan, aimed at establishing specific guidelines and a consistent investment strategy for the priority road, rail

^{1/} **TER member countries:** Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. In addition: Belarus, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro are participating in the activities of the Project as observer countries.

^{2/} **TEM member countries:** Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey. Serbia and Montenegro, Sweden and Ukraine are observers.

and combined transport infrastructure in a wider TEM and TER Region comprising 21 countries from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, were prepared and were eventually approved by the Projects' Steering Committees.

In close cooperation with the countries concerned, with the support of IRU³ to TEM Project and own resources of TEM and TER Projects, the work of the Master Plan has already started and will be completed in September 2004. Two Professors from Western European Universities have been contracted to offer their scientific and technical contributions to the work. Other international and European organizations are expected to offer also their support.

A dialogue with the EC DG TREN and the DG REGIO-ISPA, that was based on offering the TEM and TER Projects' experience and inter-country set-up for supporting and supplementing the efforts of the EC in the development of the priority transport infrastructure needs in CEE countries, started from the year 2001 and is ongoing. Concrete proposals were submitted by the UNECE to the EC followed by technical discussions between the two sides. This endeavour brought tangible results, i.e. the invitation from EC to UNECE and the TEM and TER Projects to contribute in some aspects of the monitoring of the implementation process of the Pan-European Transport Corridors and Areas.

The Polish Ministry of Infrastructure addressed to UNECE an official proposal for the TEM and TER Offices to establish within the PCOs a formal secretariat for the Corridor VI, TEM for road and TER for rail. The proposal attracted the full attention of the UNECE Secretariat and led to a number of discussions in which the PCOs as well as the Projects' Steering Committees were involved. At its thirty-ninth session, in Geneva, 26-28 May 2003, the TEM Steering Committee, gave a positive reply. At its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions, in Bratislava-Slovakia, May 2003, and Budapest-Hungary, February 2004, the TER Steering Committee regarded the proposal in a positive way and requested more clarifications for a decision to be taken in June 2004. Meanwhile, TEM has already started the Secretariat work for Corridor VI whilst TER PCO is supporting this endeavour with regard to its rail component.

Following the discussions among the TER PCO, the secretariat and the UIC, which started in the year 2001, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the cooperation of UNECE and UIC in the framework of the TER Project, several events have been co-organized and serious discussions for cooperation in the field of data collection and GIS mapping activities, as well as other fields of mutual interest, have been conducted.

Following a similar path, the cooperation between the TEM and TER Projects with other related organizations - IRU, UIRR^{4/}, ASECAP⁵, Eurochambres^{6/}, Europlatforms^{7/}, etc. - was promoted. A MoU was signed in February 2003, between IRU and the UNECE in the framework of the TEM Project, laying down the basis for closer cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Another MoU was also signed in February 2003 between ASECAP and the UNECE in the same framework of the TEM Project, in which the two parties agreed to cooperate more closely on matters such as motorway operation, user charges electronic fee collection, co organization of events, etc.

Eurochambres and Europlatforms have already agreed to cooperate with the UNECE TEM and TER in the joint implementation of a new project aiming at an integrated promotion of the Freight Villages concept in the CEE.

³ International Road Transport Union

^{4/} Union Internationale des sociétés de transport combiné Rail-Route

⁵ Association Européenne des Concessionnaires d' Autoroutes et d' Ouvrage à Péage

^{6/} Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry

^{7/} European Network of Transport/ Logistic Centres

Negotiations among CEI, the UNECE, TEM and TER Projects have been concluded at the highest level for assuring closer cooperation between CEI and the TEM and TER Projects. Already, necessary agreements have been reached and a process of co organization and co-financing of the first joint CEI – TEM and TER events has been successfully developed.

The Projects focused their efforts on further development, restructure and modernization of their Databases and Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping activities. New TEM and TER full GIS maps were prepared. The databases of both Projects are under full development and profound consideration, targeting towards a full implementation of the processing and presentation of the data and GIS maps in the Internet environment.

The TEM Project elaborated the 3rd revision of TEM Standards and Recommended Practice incorporating up-to-date requirements of motorway users, latest experience, research and development achievements in the field of motorway design, construction and operation, as well as newly required safety measures in motorway tunnels. This publication was distributed in January 2003 and is included on the UNECE/TEM website.

A TEM and TER website, hosted under UNECE, allow the visitors to obtain concrete information of the development of transport infrastructure of TEM and TER member countries and on the progress of the projects and their Master Plans.

Several countries from Eastern and South Eastern Europe are seriously considering their adherence to the Projects.

Many important events, meetings, workshops and seminars are organized every year by the Projects together with other international organizations and specialised bodies concerned, covering the areas of: Promotion of Freight Villages and the Combined Transport; modern rolling stock and railway equipment; facilitation of border crossings procedures; Motorway Stage Construction; Railway Reform in the EU and CEE Countries; Database and GIS activities, etc.

Possibilities for assistance in the development process of the Euro-Asian Pan-European transport linkages

TEM and TER nowadays, represent important instruments of institutional inter-country co-operation and co-ordinated actions in related transport issues of the CE & SE Europe, tailor made for monitoring corridors development. Their long lasting, flexible, effective and self-sustainable structures are characterising them as unique instruments that may effectively assist towards Pan-European and Euro-Asian transport infrastructure development.

