



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

**TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
33rd Session, 7 – 9 November 2012
Geneva, Switzerland**

REPORT

1. The 33rd Session of the TER Steering Committee was held on 7 - 9 November 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland.

PARTICIPATION

2. The countries that participated in the meeting were: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. Representatives of the UNECE, TER PCO and the UNECE Consultant also attended the meeting. List of participants is attached (ANNEX I).

OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. The session was opened by Mr. H. Meelich, the TER Project Manager.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Agenda (ANNEX II) of the session was approved as submitted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. The participants in the Steering Committee elected as its officers Mr. M. Kovacevic (Chairman, Serbia) and Mr. M. Radl (Rapporteur, Austria).

REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER

6. In his report, the Project Manager informed about the TER PCO's as well as about his own activities in the reporting period from the last meeting of the Committee. Speaking about the results of collaboration with the international organizations dealing with the rail transport, he mentioned inter alia the involvement of the TER in the SETA project, dealing with the improvement of connections between the north Adriatic seaports and landlocked countries of Central Europe. His report was endorsed by the session.

STATUS OF TER TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2012

7. Ms. M.-S. Fouvez, the UNECE representative, reported on the status of the 2012 Trust Fund. As of 24 October 2012, nevertheless, 7 member countries did not transfer their 2012 payments to the Fund. According to the information presented by the participants, three of them have done so in the meantime. She asked the National Coordinators of the remaining countries to convey to the responsible authorities the request to settle the 2012 TER Trust Fund obligations as soon as possible, but by the end of the year at the latest.

TER FINAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2013

8. The Steering Committee approved the TER Programme of Work, draft of which was examined at the 32nd session of the Committee held in Timisoara, Romania in September 2012, as final.

DRAFT INTEGRATED REPORT ON COMPARISON OF THE REVISED TEM AND TER MASTER PLAN BACKBONE NETWORKS WITH THE EU CORE NETWORK, UNECE AGR AND AGC NETWORKS AND WITH THE EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT LINKS

9. Mr. P. Pospisil, the UNECE Consultant, informed the Steering Committee about the content and outcomes of the draft Integrated Report on Comparison of the Revised TEM and TER Master Plan Backbone Networks with the EU Core Network, UNECE AGR and AGC Networks and with the Euro-Asian Transport Links, elaborated in accordance with the recommendations of the 2nd Meeting of the Joint Rail and Road/Motorway Follow-up Expert Group held on 29 March 2012 in Ankara, Turkey and supported by 3 rail maps of the region, distributed at the session.
10. The draft TER revised backbone network maps of all member countries, showing its actual status, were distributed at the session.

11. The Committee requested the National Coordinators to send their comments to the draft Integrated report as well as comments and corrections to the maps to the TER PCO by 20 December 2012. In this connection, the representatives of Turkey passed to the consultant the map of railways of Turkey, to be used for the same purpose by the TER PCO.

DRAFT TOR FOR THE MASTER PLAN ON THE HIGH SPEED NETWORK IN THE TER REGION

12. At the 32nd session of the Steering Committee held in Timisoara, Romania on 10 - 14 September 2012, the decision was taken to elaborate the TER Master Plan for High Speed Railways and the TER Project Manager was requested to prepare a full-fledged Terms of Reference for the elaboration of this Plan and to submit them to this session of the Committee.
13. In line with this request, the draft Terms of Reference for the elaboration of the Master Plan for High Speed Railway Network in the TER Region were submitted to the session for examination. In the course of the ensuing discussion, some countries already presented their comments to the draft, to be taken into account by the PCO. For the other comments, the deadline of 20 December 2012 was established.
14. The Steering Committee also decided that the TER Master Plan for High Speed Railway Network will cover 17 TER member countries only and requested the Project Manager to distribute the final TOR to all the National Coordinators by 10 January 2013, which would make it possible to elaborate the Master Plan in line with the proposed draft TOR timetable.

FINANCING OF THE TER ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

15. Referring to the 2013 TER cost plan, approved at the 32nd session of the Steering Committee in Timisoara, Romania, the Project Manager informed the Committee, that based on the kind invitation of the representative of Russian Federation, the next session of the Committee would take place in Sochi on 29 – 31 May 2013. It would be preceded also by another TER meeting planned for April next year to be held in Brno, the Czech Republic.
16. In the framework of this item of agenda, the Project Manager informed the Committee about the possibility to co-finance about 7 crossborder prefeasibility studies of the high speed links in the TER region and asked the National Coordinators to consider this offer and send their respective comments and/or proposals to the TER PCO at their earliest convenience.

PCO LOCATION AND STAFF SITUATION FROM 2014

17. The Project Manager informed the Steering Committee, that the full operation of the TER Project in 2013 is secured both financially and managerially. Nevertheless, his present assignment terminates on 31 December 2013. The TER PCO host agreement between the UNECE and the Slovak Government expires at the same time and negotiations on its possible extension have to be commenced as soon as possible.

OTHER BUSINESS

The representative of the UNECE and the Project Manager drew the attention of the National Coordinators to the fact, that the DSA for Timisoara, Romania amounted to USD 196 instead of USD 130. In cases, where the lower figure had been applied, the participants would receive the additional reimbursement, corresponding to the respective difference.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

18. The report on the 33rd session of the Steering Committee was adopted.
19. The Steering Committee extended its thanks to the UNECE Transport Division for its kind hosting of the session and at the same time expressed its gratitude to the Chairman and Rapporteur for their able performances and to the Project Manager for the outstanding organization of the session.