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

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**TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)  
Steering Committee  
30th Session, 20 – 22 September 2011  
Baku, Azerbaijan**

**REPORT**

1. The 30th Session of the TER Steering Committee was held on 20 - 22 September 2011 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.
2. The countries that participated in the meeting were: Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia. Representatives of the UNECE, TER PCO and its 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 THE AGENDA**

4. The Agenda (ANNEX II) was approved.

**ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS**

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

## REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER

6. The Project Manager presented his report on Project's activities carried out and informed the session also about the TER PCO's and his own activities in the period which passed from the last Steering Committee's session held in Baden, Austria on 14, 15 and 19 November last year, underlining in particular the successful termination of the TER Master Plan Revision.
7. He especially appreciated the close collaboration with the UNECE in this period, reported on some high level meetings related to the TER Project he attended and on the results of collaboration with the other international organizations dealing with transport such as OSCE, CEI, BSEC and ECO, which might support the Project's extension eastwards.
8. The report of the Project Manager was endorsed by the Committee.

## TER FINANCIAL REPORT 2010 AND STATUS OF TER TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2010

9. In the framework of the TER Financial Report for 2010, Mr. M. Pesut, the representative of the UNECE informed the session that as of 31 December 2010, the Project had a positive balance amounting to USD 528,906.68.
10. The Steering Committee expressed its satisfaction as to the sound financial position of the Project as well as its appreciation of the related activities of the Project Manager and approved the 2010 financial report.
11. Mr. Pesut further reported on the financial position of the Project and about the status of 2011 Trust Fund contributions, amounting at present to USD 79,953.00, which were transferred to the respective bank account in Geneva. Since some countries have not contributed to the Fund yet, their representatives were asked to expedite the fulfillment of these obligations as much as possible.

## REVISION OF THE TER MASTER PLAN – FINAL REPORT

12. Mr. P. Pospisil, the UNECE consultant, informed the session about the finalization of the TER Master Plan Revision in the reporting period, the Final Report of which was submitted for examination to the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee held on 1 – 3 March 2011 at Geneva and the proofreading and final editing of which was accomplished on 3 May 2011 at the UNECE Transport Division at Geneva. The copies of Volume I (Main text) of the final report were distributed at the end of the session and would be sent to all TER National Coordinators and to the interested international organizations. Volume II (Annexes) of the report would be available in October 2011. Technical corrections regarding some corridors' details will be published

as an Annex to the TER and TEM Master Plan Revision final report, Vol. I (Main text) as soon as possible.

13. The Steering Committee greatly appreciated the work done by the TER PCO, expressed its thanks to the UNECE for its support and valuable contribution to the elaboration of the final report and stressed the need to pay a great attention to the follow-up activities of the TER Master Plan Revision.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TER MASTER PLAN REVISION FOLLOW-UP EXPERT GROUP

14. In accordance with the TER Project Programme of Work for 2011, the Steering Committee decided to establish the TER Master Plan Revision Follow-up Expert Group, consisting of the representative of the UNECE Transport Division, Project Manager, external consultants and National Coordinators/Country Experts.
15. This Group should meet 1 - 2 times a year to elaborate the specific tasks assigned to it in the TER Programme of Work, concentrating in particular on the progress reached in the implementation of the Master Plan Revision infrastructure projects, updating of the Revision traffic data, development of the backbone network and on its status. It would submit annual reports on its activities and their results to the TER Steering Committee once a year.
16. Based on the results of discussion on this item and especially on the comments of the representatives of the UNECE, Austria and Poland, the Committee stressed that the follow-up activities should focus on the implementation of the identified projects, their funding and on the development of the backbone network and should not constitute another revision of the Master Plan. Since it is highly desirable to apply the intermodal approach to all the follow-up activities, it would be proposed to the next sessions of the TER and TEM Steering Committees in Salzburg, Austria to establish the only one joint rail and road/motorway Follow-up Expert Group instead of two separate groups for TER and TEM.

#### ASSIGNMENT OF THE TER PROJECT MANAGER

17. The UNECE representative, Mr. Pesut, informed the session that the Slovak Government expressed its readiness to host the TER Project Central Office in Bratislava for the next three years, i.e. for the period 2012 – 2014 and that the respective Memorandum is expected to be signed between the Government and the UNECE by the end of the year 2011. The Steering Committee welcomed this information and expressed its gratitude to the Slovak Government for this generous offer.

18. Mr. Pesut further drew the attention of the participants to the fact that the present contract of the Project Manager terminates at the end of this year. He was pleased to inform the Steering Committee, that the UNECE Executive Secretary, Mr. J. Kubis, received the letter from the Austrian Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, proposing the extension of assignment of Mr. Meelich for at least two years. The Steering Committee greatly appreciated the Austrian initiative and requested the UNECE to submit the respective proposal to the UN headquarters in New York as soon as possible in order to guarantee the continuity of the management of both the TER and TEM Projects in 2012 and in the years to come.

#### DRAFT WORKING PROGRAMME OF THE TER PROJECT 2012 - 2015

19. The Project Manager confirmed that the present short-term strategy was focused on successful termination of the TER Master Plan Revision. As far as the long term strategy was concerned, he stressed that the TER Programme of Work for 2011 – 2015, approved last year as the Attachment to the TER Co-operation Trust Fund Agreement remained valid, but should be extended to include also the new ITS components related to the research and development activities in this field as well as problems of interoperability of the two basic existing European railway systems. These activities should be reflected also in the annual plans of the TER Project and should result in concrete and tangible outcomes.

#### CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL RAIL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES – RAIL FERRIES / SEAPORTS

20. As an integral part of the session, the Conference on Development of Special Rail Transport Infrastructures – Rail ferries/Seaports was held in the Conference Centre of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Transport in Baku on 20 September 2011. In this Conference, apart from the members of the TER Steering Committee, also representatives of the EU DG Move/Corridor VII, OSCE, Asian Development Bank, Ministry of Transport of Azerbaijan, Black and Caspian Seas shipping companies, railway companies and major seaports participated. Its agenda and list of its participants (apart from the members of the Steering Committee) are attached (ANNEXES III and IV).
21. The conference, organized by the UNECE TER Project with the great support of the respective Azerbaijani Ministries, dealt with rail transport challenges related to the development of the seaports in question, their hinterland connections and rail ferries in the region. It provided an excellent opportunity for the seaports and port authorities to present their development plans to strengthen their positions as major transport hubs and confirmed the importance of hinterland connections of ports in the course of implementation of these plans. At the conference, also the results of the UNECE EATL project were presented. The OSCE attendance at the conference underlined the importance of good

functioning rail network including rail hinterland connections of the ports in the Caucasus area for the further development of the region.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

22. The next session of the Committee will be held on 24 – 29 October 2011 in Salzburg, Austria.
23. The representative of Poland drew the attention of the Committee to the newly established UNECE's Working Group on Climate Influence on Transport Networks, the first meeting of which took place in Geneva on 3 September 2011. The Committee noted this information and requested the Project Manager to discuss with the UNECE Transport Division the possibilities of involvement of the TER Project in this activity.

#### ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

24. The Steering Committee adopted the report of the session.
25. The participants extended their thanks to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and to the Azerbaijani Ministry of Transport for hosting the session and to its representatives as well as to the TER Project Manager for its outstanding organization.