



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

**TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER)
Steering Committee
35th Session, 22 October 2013
Geneva, Switzerland**

REPORT

1. The 35th Session of the TER Steering Committee was held on 22 October 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland.

PARTICIPATION

2. The countries that participated in the meeting were: Austria, Czech Republic, Russian Federation and Slovakia. Representatives of the UNECE led by Ms. E. Molnar, Director of the Transport Division, the TER Project Manager, Mr. H. Meelich and the UNECE Consultant also attended the meeting. List of participants is attached.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. On behalf of the outgoing Chairman, Mr. J. Kleniewski, Mr. H. Meelich, the TER Project Manager opened the session and welcomed its participants.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

4. The Agenda of the session was approved as submitted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. The participants in the Steering Committee elected as its officers Mr. M. Radl (Chairman, Austria) and Mr. J. Kusnir (Rapporteur, Czech Republic).

REPORT OF THE PROJECT MANAGER

6. In his report, the Project Manager informed the session about the

proposal of the Russian Federation to make available Mr. G. Bessonov as the TER Project Manager as of 1 January 2004, which proposal has been already accepted by the UNECE. He summarized the results achieved by the Project as well as 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, aimed at the improvement of connections between the north Adriatic seaports and landlocked countries of Central Europe as well as in the NEAR2 (Network of European-Asian Rail Research Capacities), the Trade Facilitation and Caucasus Transit Corridor (CTC) and the Southeast Europe Programme (SEE) projects. He also presented the outcomes of the two important TER meetings held in Sochi (Russian Federation) in May and in Bad Gastein (Austria), which were highly appreciated by the participants.

7. Concluding his report, he extended his sincere thanks to all the TER National Coordinators for their support in the course of his assignment as the TER Project Manager and wished the new Project Manager all the best in performing his demanding tasks.
8. The representative of the Russian Federation, Mr. S. Stolyarov as well as the UNECE representative, Mr. K. Alexopoulos expressed their high appreciation and gratitude to Mr. H. Meelich for his excellent performance as the TER Project Manager and for the achievements of the Project under his able managership.
9. The Steering Committee endorsed the report of the Project Manager.

STATUS OF TER TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2013

10. The UNECE representatives reported on the status of the 2013 TER Trust Fund contributions. As of 31 August 2013, 10 member countries transferred their 2013 payments to the Fund and the total unencumbered net Fund balance at the end of the year is thus expected to amount to USD 356.696. The Steering Committee asked the National Coordinators of the remaining countries to convey to the responsible authorities the request to settle the 2013 Trust Fund obligations as soon as possible, but by the end of the year at the latest.

TER COST PLAN FOR 2014

11. The Project Manager introduced the proposal of the 2014 TER Cost Plan, amounting to net total of USD 229.000, underlining the fact that about half of these resources (USD 110.000) would be earmarked for the Group Training only. The Steering Committee took note of his proposal and stressed the need to adjust it in

accordance to the final version of the Programme of Work for the next year. Consequently, the Committee requested both the outgoing and incoming Project Managers to elaborate the draft final version of the Cost Plan, reflecting the Programme of Work, the latest draft of which would be available at the end of the year, in close co-operation with the UNECE.

TER PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2014

12. The first draft of the TER Programme of Work for 2014 was presented by Mr. P. Pospisil, the UNECE Consultant. He explained that the draft had been based on the expected achievements of the Project in 2013 and that its final and more detailed version should also reflect the proposals and wishes of the participating countries.
13. The general structure of the Programme as well as its individual activities and actions proposed were discussed by the session in detail. In the course of this discussion, in which the Austrian and Russian as well as the UNECE representatives took part, some proposals of new activities were submitted for consideration to the TER PCO, such as e.g. the involvement of TER in the update of the AGC network, GIS presentation of the data and maps of the Project on the UNECE/TER website in order to make them accessible online, reflection of the Almaty programme of actions, focusing on the TER railway stations, especially on those having historic value and to their passengers, etc. Special attention should be paid to the ways and means aimed at attracting selected non-member countries to join the Project.
14. In this connection, the Committee asked the Project Manager to revise the draft Programme of Work by adding a new column "Output/Outcome" and to try to specify at least some of these outputs/outcomes where possible at present. This revised proposal would be sent by the TER PCO to the National Coordinators and to the UNECE by the end of October 2013.
15. The National Coordinators will be asked to formulate comments as well as their additional proposals and ideas related to this draft and to communicate them to the TER PCO by the end of November 2013. On this basis, the PCO will elaborate the final TER Programme of Work for 2014 and submit it together with the respective Cost Plan and budget in advance to the National Coordinators and then to the next session of the TER Steering Committee.

ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY PROJECT MANAGER

16. The Steering Committee extended its thanks to the Government of Austria for making available Mr. A. Zimmer for the post of the

TER Deputy Project Manager as of 1 January 2014 and approved his assignment for the period 2014 – 2015 with the possibility of extension also for the next period.

OTHER BUSINESS

17. Since the Agreement between the UNECE and the Government of Slovakia on hosting the TER Project Central Office in Bratislava would expire at the end of 2014, the Steering Committee requested the UNECE to contact the respective Slovak authorities at its earliest convenience to discuss the extension of this Agreement for 2015 and the forthcoming years.
18. The 36th session of the TER Steering Committee will be held in Geneva in February 2014 back-to-back to the 76th session of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

19. The report on the 35th session of the Steering Committee was adopted.
20. The Committee extended its thanks to the UNECE Transport Division for its hosting of the session, to the Project Manager for its excellent organization and to the Chairman and Rapporteur for their able performances.