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Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

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**PAN-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT CORRIDORS, TRANS EUROPEAN MOTORWAY
(TEM) AND TRANS EUROPEAN RAILWAY (TER) PROJECTS**

Report on TEM and TER activities implemented in the reporting period 2008/2009

1. The TEM and TER Projects, of which the UNECE is the Executing Agency and in which 15 (TEM) and 17 (TER) countries of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and of Caucasus participate, provide specific platforms for cooperation in the field of building of motorways and railways, introducing at the same time new methodologies with the objective of making the current international transport more effective in synergy with the Pan-European agreements on transport infrastructure. At the intergovernmental level, the TEM and TER Projects are the only two international regional platforms, dealing with the common topics of the road and railway transport and assisting in achieving a higher standard of the transport infrastructure network in the participating countries.
2. The TEM and TER Cooperation Trust Fund Agreements, established by the UNECE in 1977 and 1990, respectively, make both Projects self-sustaining, financed by direct contributions of the member countries, and ensure the implementation of their main objectives while sharing relevant frameworks and experiences with reforming the transport infrastructure and related IT systems in the member countries and increasing the quality of services according to the new standards and transport conditions developing in Europe.
3. The Project networks of motorways and expressways (TEM) and railways (TER) both extend some 24 000 km and form backbones of the Pan-European Road and Rail Corridors in the CEE region (the TEN-T in the EU member countries), providing valuable contribution to the strategic transport plans of Europe and the extension of the TEN-T to the neighbouring countries and regions.
4. The highest decision-making bodies of both Projects are their Steering Committees, including representatives of the UNECE, Project Managers and National Coordinators of the participating countries. The fiftieth session of the TEM Steering Committee took place on 3 - 5 December 2008 in Geneva and the next one will be held in Budapest, Hungary on 15 - 16 September this year. The twenty-fifth session of the TER Steering Committee, including a joint session with the UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2), took place on 18 - 21 November 2008 in Geneva and its twenty-sixth session was held on 22 - 23 April 2009 in Bad Gastein, Austria.

5. In 2005, the TEM and TER Projects completed the elaboration of their joint Master Plan, including the identification of the backbone networks for road and rail transport in 21 countries of the region as well as a realistic investment strategy to gradually develop these networks which would contribute to economic growth for the countries concerned and to the well-being of their populations. Furthermore, the implementation of these projects would greatly benefit the integration and harmonization of transport within Europe and beyond. As many as 491 projects with an estimated total cost of EUR 102 billion were evaluated and prioritized. With the elaboration of their Master Plan, TEM and TER Projects offered a substantial contribution to the extension of TEN-T; the practical implementation of Pan-European Transport Corridors; the promotion of intermodal operation and complementarity of transport modes and towards the provision of maximum effectiveness of transport infrastructure.

6. In spite of the evidence that the TEM and TER process has been successful, the work needs to be followed up. Further work in some aspects is necessary and technical assistance needed in order to monitor progress. There is still a considerable difficulty in presenting the complete shape of the TEM and TER backbone networks in different time horizons (2015 and 2020) due to lack of adequate information on the current status and the planned progress in some parts of the respective networks. Moreover, since the elaboration of the Plan, a number of new developments emerged. These may be summarized as follows:

- (a) Completion of the work of the EU High Level Group and the extension of the Trans-European network (TEN-T) to neighbouring countries and regions;
- (b) Approval of the accession of Armenia and Slovenia to the TEM and TER projects;
- (c) Transformation of Serbia and Montenegro into two independent entities;
- (d) Accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union;
- (e) Need for the inclusion of all SEE and Caucasus countries in the Master Plan exercise (Albania; Armenia, Azerbaijan),
- (f) New proposals on priorities, projects and links by the TEM & TER member countries in the course of the 2007 and 2008 follow-up work;
- (g) Completion of the first phase of the UNECE – UNESCAP Euro Asian Linkages project and adoption, by the concerned countries, of the priority routes and projects identified by it;
- (h) New data received from countries, such as Hungary, Poland and the Russian Federation;
- (i) Increased interest of countries in intermodal aspects, including logistics centres, combined transport terminals, seaports and maritime hinterland connections with RO-RO, RO-PAX and RO-LA.

7. That is why the UNECE Inland Transport Committee at its sixty-ninth, seventieth and seventy-first sessions invited the Steering Committees of the TEM and TER Projects, in close cooperation with the concerned Governments, to continue pursuing the follow-up actions recommended in the Master Plan, including monitoring of its implementation and its Revision in 2009-2010.

8. In this TEM and TER Master Plan Revision, the following 25 countries are involved: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Former Yugoslav Republic of

Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine. The Revision will review the latest developments in the TEM and TER projects, and in particular:

- Update data related to traffic flows for TEM and TER networks,
- Check the conformity of new projects and regulations with the TEM and TER backbone networks and review the original TEM and TER networks,
- Review border crossing issues,
- Improve data collection procedures,
- Update information about TEM and TER funding,
- Identify interrelationships of the TEM and TER Master Plan backbone networks with intermodal points and links and
- Draw up conclusions and recommendations.

9. The works on the Revision are being co-ordinated and supervised by the Coordination Group, consisting of UNECE representatives, Project Managers and external consultants, assisted by the Groups of Experts from the member countries. The meetings of the Coordination Group in the reporting period took place in Hallstatt, Austria on 2 – 4 September 2008 and in Bad Gastein, Austria on 21 April 2009.

10. In the evaluation and prioritization of the new or revised transport infrastructure projects, identified in the course of the Revision, the modified version of the multi-criteria approach developed for the original Master Plan, based on the quantitative analysis of data on these projects, followed by the qualitative evaluation of the related strategic and political concerns, will be used. The final report of the TEM and TER Master Plan Revision will be available at the end of 2010.

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