



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
10 September 2018

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Seventy-second session

Geneva, 21–23 November 2018

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Monitoring of the developments in pan-European transport networks:
Trans-European Motorway and Trans-European Railway projects**

Information on the Trans-European Railway (TER) project development*

Submitted by the TER Project Manager

I. Objectives of the Project

1. The main target of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project is to improve the quality and efficiency of transport operations, to assist the integration process of European transport infrastructure systems and to develop a coherent and efficient international railway and combined transport system in accordance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Pan-European infrastructure agreements.
2. Among the various goals of the TER project, the following may be emphasized: facilitation and development of coherent and efficient international railway and combined transport system among the Central and Eastern European countries (through the territories of the TER countries and between them and other European countries), contribution in absorbing of an important part of congestion in Central and Eastern Europe and reduction of environmental and safety problems on major international railways of those countries.

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

II. TER development and activities in 2017

3. The TER Steering Committee at the 41st TER Steering Committee session (Geneva, 21–22 November 2016) adopted the following activities for implementation in the TER Programme of Work 2017:

(a) Connectivity

- Participation of international Steering Group Sessions (EC, OSJD, EUAR etc.);
- Comprehensive study on possible High-Speed Lines for a High-Speed Master Plan.

(b) Visibility

- Activities aimed increasing number of TER member countries;
- Redesign and update of TER webpage;
- Finalization, printing and distribution of TER info brochure.

(c) Capacity-Building

- Identification of infrastructure bottlenecks and lobbying for their removal;
- Initiation of an international Infrastructure Service Comparison;
- Organization of a TER Workshop.

(d) Development

- Implementation of 2011 TER Master Plan Follow-up monitoring;
- Progress reports on results of Master Plan Revision monitoring and TER backbone network status 2017;
- Data collection and processing, possible extension of TER system to non-TER countries;
- Presentation of results of the Master Plan Revision implementation on the UNECE/TER website.

(f) Management

- Functioning PCO;
- Activities aimed for a new HCA;
- Activities for new contracts for the TER Management;
- Organization of 2 TER Steering Committee Sessions;
- Draft a TER Budget and Programme of Work 2018.

4. During the 42nd TER Steering Committee session (Belgrade, 3-4 April, 2017) the following were discussed and agreed:

(a) The management focused its efforts on discussing and negotiating with the Governments of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Georgia in order for these countries to become members of the project;

(b) A draft Report on the High-Speed Rail Master Plan Phase 1 was presented and is subject to approval upon receiving and incorporating comments from the SC members;

(c) The draft version of the TER brochure, introduced to the session, was approved as amended for printing and distribution. This brochure will be available also on TER homepage;

- (d) The TER backbone network is being revised and draft maps were prepared by the consultant that reflect the status of the network in 2016-2017;
- (e) The TER office in Belgrade was officially opened and started its operation;
- (f) The contract of the Deputy TER Project Manager was finalized and officially signed.
- (g) The TER Workshop on International Cargo Transport — Obstacles and Chances could not be held in Karlovy Vary (Czech Republic) in October 2017.

III. Activities in 2018

5. The TER Steering Committee at the 43rd TER Steering Committee session (Geneva, 27 November 2017) adopted the following activities for implementation in the TER Programme of Work 2018:

- (a) Connectivity
 - Participation of international Steering Group Sessions (EC, OSJD, EUAR etc.);
 - Comprehensive study Phase II in the framework of the High-Speed Master Plan Implementation project.
- (b) Visibility
 - Activities aimed at increasing the number of TER member countries;
 - Redesign and update of TER webpage;
 - Distribution of the TER info brochure.
- (c) Capacity-Building
 - Identification of infrastructure bottlenecks and lobbying for their removal;
 - Initiation of an international Infrastructure Service Comparison;
 - Organization of a TER Workshop.
- (d) Development
 - Implementation of 2011 TER Master Plan Follow-up monitoring;
 - Progress reports on results of Master Plan Revision monitoring and TER backbone network status 2018;
 - Data collection and processing, possible extension of TER system to non-TER countries;
 - Presentation of results of the Master Plan Revision implementation on the UNECE/TER website.
- (f) Management
 - Functioning PCO;
 - Activities aimed for a new HCA;
 - Organization of 2 TER Steering Committee Sessions;
 - Draft a TER Budget and Programme of Work 2018.

6. During the 44th TER Steering Committee session (Vienna, 4-5 June 2018) the following were discussed and agreed:

(a) The management focused its efforts on discussing and negotiating with the Governments of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Georgia in order for these countries to become members of the project;

(b) A draft Terms of Reference on the High-Speed Rail Master Plan Phase 2 was presented and approved by the SC members;

(c) The print-out TER brochure was presented at the session and distributed among the SC session delegates;

(d) The TER backbone network is being revised and draft maps were prepared by the consultant that reflect the status of the network in 2018;

(e) The TER office in Belgrade continues its operation and the host country expressed its willingness to prolong the host country agreement;

(f) The contract of the Deputy TER Project Manager was finalized and officially signed for 2018;

(g) The TER Workshop will be held in 2019.
