



**Study on
the Orient/East-Med
TEN-T Core Network Corridor
and support to Coordinator**

Phase III of 3rd Study

*Final Administrative Report
November 2023*

Table of contents

1	Introduction and scope	5
1.1	Outline	5
1.2	Objectives of the Study	5
1.3	Consortium Information (OEM)	6
1.4	Harmonized and coherent elaboration of CNC study	7
1.5	Deliverables	7
2	Task 1 – Further elaborating the Corridor knowledge base	8
2.1	Overview on Task 1 efforts	8
2.2	Task 1.2 - Updated calculation of KPI compliance values for 2022	8
2.3	Task 1.9 – Elaboration of the Final Report	9
3	Task 3 – Monitoring and analysing the state of project implementation and reporting	10
3.1	Overview on efforts for Project implementation monitoring	10
3.2	Overview on efforts supporting the Coordinator	10
3.3	Update the technical parameter data in TENtec OMC	11
4	Task 5 – Preparing, supporting and following up of the meetings of the Corridor Forum and its Working Groups	12
4.1	Meetings of the Corridor Forum	12
4.2	Working Group Meetings of the Corridor Forum	15
4.3	Further Meetings	15
5	Task 6 – Project and quality management	16
5.1	Overview on PM/QM efforts	16
5.2	Management Meetings	16
6	Summary	17
7	Appendix	18

Figures

Figure 1: Latest KPI compliance rates for the OEM.....	8
Figure 2: Excerpts from the Final Report III.	9

Tables

Table 1: Consortium members of OEM3 study team.....	6
Table 2: Deliverables (06/2022 – 11/2023)	7

Disclaimer

The information and views set out in the present Report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf may be held responsible for any potential use which may be made of the information contained herein.

Version

The version 1.0 was finalized on the 30 November 2023.

Abbreviations

bn	Billion
CEF	Connecting Europe Facility
CF	Corridor Forum (CF15=15 th Corridor Forum
meet.)	
CINEA	Climate, Innovation, Networks Executive
Agency	
CNC	Core Network Corridor
DG MOVE	European Commission – Directorate General
for	Mobility and Transport
EC	European Commission
ERTMS	European Rail Traffic Management System
EU	European Union
IWW	Inland waterway
km	kilometre
KPI	Key performance indicator
m	metre
mn	Million
MFF	Multi-annual financial framework of the EU
MoT	Ministry of Transport
MS	Member States of the European Union
n.a.	not available / not applicable
OEM	Orient / East-Med (Corridor)
RDC	Rhine-Danube Corridor
RFC	Rail Freight Corridor
TEN-T	Trans-European Transport Network
WG	Working Group
WP	Work Plan

Country Codes according to ISO 3166:

AT	Austria	MK	North Macedonia
BE	Belgium	NL	the Netherlands
BG	Bulgaria	RO	Romania
CY	Cyprus	RS	Republic of Serbia
CZ	Czech Republic	SK	Slovakia
DE	Germany	TR	Turkey
EL	Greece		
FR	France		
HU	Hungary		

1 Introduction and scope

1.1 Outline

The present report constitutes the **Final Administrative Report III** of the 3rd phase of the **Study on the Orient/East-Med Core Network Corridor**.

In accordance with the tender specifications, it shall briefly sum up the activities of the Contractor's work in the period October 2022 – November 2023 (i.e. 3rd phase of 3rd study). Where deemed useful, reference is made to deliverables and other results presented in the Appendix of this document.

The elements included in this progress report are:

- **Task 3 - Monitoring project implementation and reporting**
- **Task 5 - Corridor Forum and WG meetings**
- **Task 6 - Project and quality management**

1.2 Objectives of the Study

Considering the objectives of the CNC study as outlined in the tender specification, the main tasks of this assignment were:

- **Support** to the **Commission/DG MOVE** and the **European Coordinator**
- Analysis and reporting of the **progress** made on the **Corridor** and monitoring its **evolution**, including:
 - Analysis of Corridor's evolution with respect to compliance with technical requirements and changes in the Corridor's KPIs based on the completed projects;
 - Consideration of proposed changes in the CEF Regulation in relation to Corridor alignment;
 - Ensuring the structures supporting the Corridor's evolution – its Working Groups and Corridor Forums – work in a smooth and continuous way.
- To propose a **refinement** of the **CNC Work Plan**, including:
 - An enhancement and deepening of its knowledge base, including the assessment of its implementation by updating information on markets, technical compliance, bottlenecks, innovation projects and progress made on pilot initiatives;
 - An identification of additional projects contributing to further technical compliance and shift to environmentally friendly transport modes and removal of bottlenecks.

1.3 Consortium Information (OEM)

The study on the Orient/East Med Core Network Corridor is conducted by a group of international Consultants, led by **ic consulenten**. The Experts involved are listed below:

Table 1: Consortium members of OEM3 study team

ic consulenten Ziviltechniker GesmbH	AT	Albrecht MALCHEREK (Head of Study Team), Charlotte SIOT
Hacon Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH	DE	Niklas GALONSKE, Jan HILDEBRANDT,
ITC Institute of Transport and Communication OOD	BG	Kristiana CHAKAROVA
Panteia B.V.	NL HU	Ivo HINDRIKS, Peter KRAUSZ
PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory SpA	CZ CZ	Samuel SLESAR Katerina TSOLOV
Railistics GmbH	DE RO	Wolf-Dietrich GEITZ Raluca ATANASSOV
SYSTEMA Consulting SMLtd	EL	Panayota MORAITI

This study is elaborated for and in close cooperation with:

- The European Coordinator for the Orient/East-Med Core Network Corridor, Mr. Matthieu GROSCH

and the European Commission, DG MOVE, Unit B.1, Brussels, Belgium, represented by:

- Mr. Patrick VANKERCKHOVEN, Advisor of the Coordinator until January 2023
- Ms. Lotte LANKVELD, Advisor of the Coordinator since February 2023
- Mr. Eddy LIEGOIS, Head of Unit MOVE B1
- Mr. Herald RUIJTERS, Director DG MOVE B, Acting Deputy Director-General

1.4 Harmonized and coherent elaboration of CNC study

In order to achieve the requested coherent approach of the analyses and obtain coherent results, the various consultants consortia, based on the instruction of DG MOVE, have established two **cross-corridor Working Groups** with the other 8 CNC study consortia, in order to elaborate joint methodologies.

- **Task 2/3 Working Group** addressing issues related to the project list and the project implementation reporting (KombiConsult, Hacon and all study team leaders). This working group was continued until the end of the study contract.

Reference is made to this WG in the *Project Implementation Report 1/2023*.

1.5 Deliverables

The following table gives an overview on the deliverables of the 3rd phase of the 3rd study on the OEM Corridor completed between **06/2022** and **11/2023**:

Table 2: Deliverables (06/2022 – 11/2023)

Deliverable	Date
Translations of Executive Summary of Final Report II	19/09/2022
Project Implementation Report 1/23	02/05/2023
Project List Update 2023 incl. User Friendly Tool *	04/06/2023
Update of technical parameters in TENtec OMC for 2021 and 2022 for 11 parameters	31/07/2023
Tailor-made information related to Coordinator's missions	various
Final Report III incl. Calculation of KPI compliance values	15/11/2023
Final Administrative Report (i.e. this document)	30/11/2023
Monthly Activity Reports *	monthly (until 09/2022)
Monthly Press Reviews	monthly

*) Additional activities not requested by SoW for third phase.

2 Task 1 – Further elaborating the Corridor knowledge base

2.1 Overview on Task 1 efforts

The key objective of Task 1 is to update the Corridor knowledge base and, where relevant, to expand it.

During the third phase 2022 - 2023, this task has been performed according to the service contract only in a limited way in **summer and autumn 2023**.

This task builds forth on previous studies, and in particular the previous Corridor Study Update carried out in 2020/2021.

The activities provided inputs for tasks 3.3 and 5, culminating into the Coordinator's Final Report III of November 2023.

2.2 Task 1.2 - Updated calculation of KPI compliance values for 2022

As an additional task, out of the SoW for the third phase, an update to the characteristics of the Corridor for the years 2021 resp. 2022 was needed for the Final Report.

This is carried out by tracking and monitoring the achievements in terms of KPIs per TEN-T Core Corridor section and node, according to the infrastructure targets and definitions set out in Regulation No. 1315/2013, Article 39.

The country experts under the lead of the Task 1 Manager updated selected KPI data for the OEM Corridor network up to December 2022. This was done on the basis of the project list and local knowledge resp. network statements of completed projects on the network. The following figure illustrates the final result, presented in the final report.

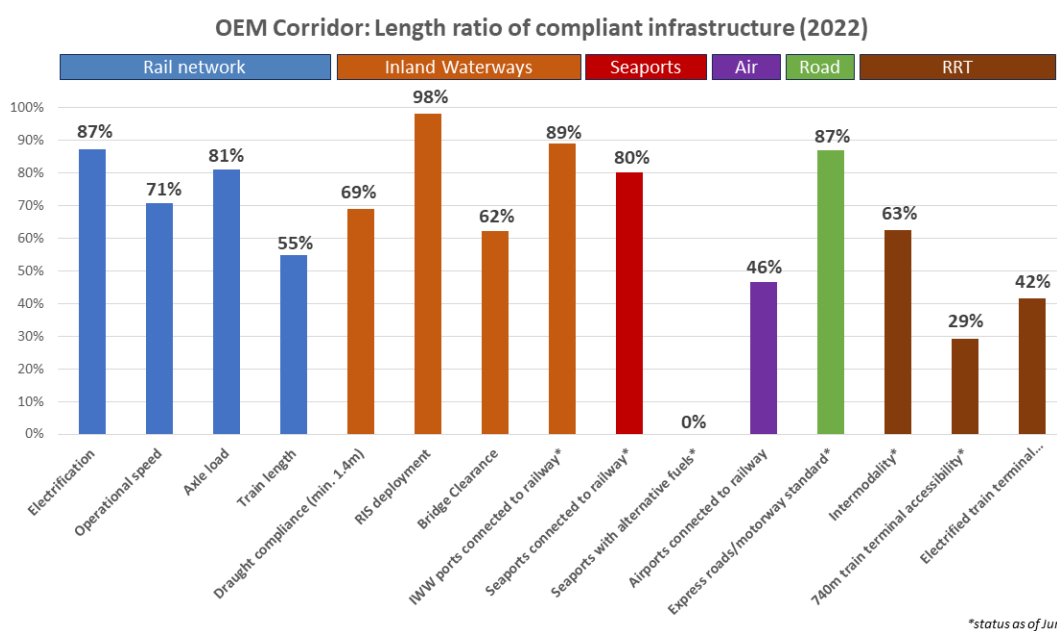


Figure 1 Latest KPI compliance rates for the OEM

2.3 Task 1.9 – Elaboration of the Final Report

As requested for in the amended service contract, the consultant team has conducted several analyses and elaborated graphs, maps and overviews to be published in the Final report.

Thus, the structure and the content of the Final Report was jointly elaborated between the Coordinator, its advisor and the Consultant team. Reference was made to page 13 of the Service contract specifying as follows:

„The final report on phase III of the Study ... should take a form of a concise summary of up to 20 pages. It should include qualitative interpretation (i.e. not a simple statistical outcome) and problem analysis of the results of the KPIs updated in TENtec OMC together with a detailed analysis per CNC and their visualization in the form of maps resulting from TENtec OMC. It should demonstrate in particular the current state of implementation per infrastructure section or transport node (airport). ”

The use of maps from TENtec has not proven as reasonable due to visibility of content, except for the gap analysis map of e-charging.

The contractor has presented the content of final report in the 19th Corridor Forum and provided these slides to the participants, while the publication of the Printed Version of the Final Report III is foreseen on 30th November 2023, the date of Mr Grosch’s presentation on his expiring mandate in the European Parliament.



Figure 2 Excerpts from the Final Report III.

3 Task 3 – Monitoring and analysing the state of project implementation and reporting

3.1 Overview on efforts for Project implementation monitoring

The structure of the regular *Project Implementation Report* (PIR) for all nine CNCs has been jointly elaborated in the Task 2/3 Cross-Corridor Working Group. It includes a detailed approach of analysis, results and detailed structure and allows for monitoring the development of project implementation in 6 months periods until 2022, recently in 12 months. This structure and the associated methodology of analysis were agreed with the Commission in 2018.

Based on this approach, the PIR 1/2023 has been delivered to DG MOVE on due time.

For this, a dedicated “narrow” update of the project list has been performed. “Narrow update” means that Member States and other stakeholders are requested to update only selected project parameters, which are particularly relevant for the (semi-)annual monitoring.

These are parameters on project maturity and implementation as well as project costs and financing/funding. In contrast, deactivation of projects not pursued anymore and adding of new projects as well as the modification of other project parameters are not in the focus of the “narrow” updates.

The following deliverables are connected to this task:

- ⇒ **Project Implementation Report 01/2023 (May 2023)**
- ⇒ **Project List as per 06 April 2023 (Excel) with User-friendly tool (Excel macro)**

3.2 Overview on efforts supporting the Coordinator

Mission Dossiers

According to the tender specification, on specific request, additional deliverables shall be elaborated under Task 3.4 and 3.5:

- Ad-hoc implementation status reports
- Tailor-made information dossiers, background documents, e.g. for the Coordinator’s meetings or missions
- Additional documents, summaries or presentations based on the existing outputs or results of Tasks 1-4

The Consultant provided tailored information for the following meetings and missions of Coordinator Grosch:

- Meeting with the Czech Minister Kupka in Brussels (June 2022)
- Meeting with the Saxon Minister in Brussels (6 March 2023)
- Mission to Germany and Czechia on Elbe IWW issues and the opening of Rail Tunnel information centre in (25/26 May 2024)
- Mission to Germany with meeting Deutsche Bahn CEO and Federal Minister of Transport (4/5 October 2023)
- Mission to Hungary incl. meeting with RFC 7 and MÁV (25/26 October 2023)
- Mission to Greece incl. meetings with various ministers (16-18 October 2023)

Monthly Press Clips

Based on request, since February 2019, the Consultant is collecting and compiling Monthly Press Clips, with news on CNC relevant items in the networks and the transport policies of the riparian Member States of the CNC.

Sorted by MS, each individual extract is provided with headline, date, web link (URL) and a short summary in the English language. The review sums up to approx. 15 pages for the 9 countries.

This report is thus also providing background information for missions of the Coordinator, but also extends the activities conducted under task 1.4 (Assessment of related main MS policy documents) and task 2.2 (completion of project list).

⇒ **Monthly Press reports (May 2022 – October 2023)**

Ad-hoc support the coordinator

- Selected project information on the OEM for a Paper on CEF3 needs of Coordinators Secchi and Bodewig on major cross-border projects (February 2023)

3.3 Update the technical parameter data in TENtec OMC

The update of TENtec data were executed in June – August 2023. Until then, data on technical parameters (KPI) was available up to the reference year 2020 (31st December) for each section or element of the OEM CNC.

As a task for the 3rd phase, the 2021 and 2022 values for the following 11 KPIs had to be added into the TENtec (OMC) system for existing sections (excluded planned sections), which are not yet compliant with the TEN-T standards.

Key Performance Indicators
1. RAIL: Loading gauge (≥ P400)
2. RAIL: Maximum train length (≥ 740m)
3. RAIL: Max axle load (≥ 22,5 tonnes)
4. RAIL: Line Speed (≥ 100km/h)
5. RAIL: Track gauge (1435mm)
6. RAIL: Electrification
7. AIRPORTS: Connection to rail
8. IWW: RIS implementation
9. IWW: Permissible height under bridges (≥ 5,25m)
10. IWW: Permissible draught (≥ 2,5m)
11. IWW: CEMENT IV class (≥ IV)

The Consultants (lead: Panteia) had cross-corridor wise organised the workflow with particular respect on the responsibilities for overlapping sections. TENtec has been updated based on the narrow-updated project list (PIR 2023-1) and thereon based compliance checks. National experts were consulted to verify if a KPI was indeed improved, furthermore network statements of the infrastructure managers were utilized. The results in brief:

- 8 projects were identified which are finalized in 2021 and 2022 and which, according to the PL, achieved full compliance in a KPI.
- 2 projects make only a part of a TENtec section compliant, thus not making the full section compliant, thus not resulting in a KPI change.

- for 3 projects, the section was already compliant with the KPI that was marked in the PL as being achieved.
- for 2 projects, country experts (EL and DE) verified that the project actually didn't contribute to the KPI being fully compliance achieved.
- For 1 project, the KPI has indeed been achieved: electrification of the Oldenburg – Wilhelmshaven rail section.

The results are visible in the TENtec OMC system.

4 Task 5 – Preparing, supporting and following up of the meetings of the Corridor Forum and its Working Groups

4.1 Meetings of the Corridor Forum

September 2022 / 17th CF

The 17th Corridor Forum Meeting of Orient/East-Med Core Network Corridor took place on Thursday, 29th September 2022 from 14:00 until 16:30 CEST as a physical meeting in Brussels, CCAB (room 0.B).

The Coordinator, Mr Mathieu Grosch welcomed 40 participants, thereof 9 EC service staff and consultants. All 9 MS were attending with at least one representative.

Mrs Indre Venckunaite was introduced as new advisor of the OEM Coordinator at CINEA (replacing Ms E. Constantinidou), recently also being Bulgaria Task manager at CINEA.

The most important topic of the meeting was **to present the content of the 5th Work Plan of the European Coordinator on the OEM CNC.**

This included a half-hour presentation of the Consultant (iC consulenten and Hacon) on the recent state of infrastructure compliance (KPI 2020), a summary of accomplished projects in 2019-2021, the list of ongoing and upcoming projects and the outlook to 2030 with precise definition of expected non-compliant sections and hubs, including the results of the last Project implementation report 1/2022.

As a conclusion, the **Coordinator highlighted in his presentation** that half of CNC implementation time is over, but only 1/3 of planned investments have been spent, mainly in smaller projects. Big projects are still ahead, while a repeated trend of shifting projects into future periods is obvious. He warned that various resources (planning & approval & construction & network capacity) become increasingly scarce, posing a serious risk of non-matching the 2030 deadline and therefore these resources must be built with available EU funding and technical assistance frameworks. The Coordinator emphasized that Member states need to target on a common transport network of good connectivity, and to give national priority for real CNC added-value projects in border areas. Also the lack of RRT in Southern OEM countries must be tackled. The geostrategic reality of 2022 teaches us the need of Alternative fuels and good hinterland connection of seaports. Thus, he intends to amend the project implementation methodology after a discussion with the OEM MS.

Feedback from CF members: Ms Ilie (Romanian MoT) stated that Romania acknowledges the critical OEM analyses. It has given priority to the development of the Rhine Danube Corridor, whereas the country is facing limited capacities in administration, contractors and funding. The OEM projects have finalized the Feasibility phase now. Mr Logothetis considers that Greece will still meet the 2030 deadlines for the projects. Ms Agnes Lengyelne-Kerekes on behalf of RFC7

Management Board underlines that the rail clients still believe in the corridor. All MS are complaining increased constructions costs and worry about delays causing the loss of EU co-funding. Mr Grosch replied that he will address this cost and delay topic in tries to develop joint solutions with COM and CINEA.

As 3rd topic, presentations of EC service experts were held:

- by Ms Indre Venckunaite (CINEA) on the CEF funds and the state of play
- by Mr Patrick Vankerckhoven (MOVE B1) on the status of the Revision of the TEN-T and on the CEF2022 AFIF and Military Mobility, including the prolongation of Coordinator's and Consultant's mandates.

Greece don't agree to split the OEM corridor in future into several ETCs (BBA+WBC) and proposes to keep an OEM but to extend it. Also RFC7 is critical and hopes that synergies and joint results between OEM CNC and RFC OEM won't get lost in the new ETC Rhine-Danube and others. She pledges for an appropriate mapping of ETCs in order to align with real traffic flows. Coordinator Mr Grosch replied this should be addressed in the relevant meetings Council WG on the TEN-T Revision.

In the following Restricted meeting with MoT representatives [16:30 – 17:00], a printed item of the WP5 was handed out.

Mr. Grosch request the Czech MoT not to wait with the Elbe IWW project resp. agreement, until the GNS definition will become part of TEN-T regulation in 2023/24. No time can be won through waiting.

The following items were brought by member states:

- Slovakia asked if and when Mr Grosch will visit Slovakia, pinpointing to the special implementation problems along the Slovak OEM rail section. Answer: No visit date can be given now.
- Cyprus: Mr Karantanos request assistance how to manage the diverging reporting requirements of a blended project with CEF and Structural funds. Answer: CINEA will assist.
- Hungary: Mr Bajan asks which EU funding can be applied inside Ukraine/Moldova. Mr Vankerckhoven clarified somehow, more in the Council WG on the TEN-T Revision.
- Slovakia asked which finalization deadlines the Ukrainian TEN-T must meet? Answer: Ask the Council WG on the TEN-T Revision.

Presentations were provided by Email after the meeting.

June 2023 / 18th CF

The 18th Corridor Forum Meeting of Orient/East-Med Core Network Corridor took place on Wednesday, 7th June 2023 from 14:00 until 17:00 CEST as a physical meeting in Brussels, CCAB (room 0.C).

The Coordinator, Mr Mathieu Grosch welcomed 32 participants, thereof 7 EC service staff and consultants. All 9 MS were attending with at least one representative.

Ms Lotte Lankveld was introduced as new advisor of the OEM Coordinator at MOVE B1 (replacing Mr Vankerckhoven). He looked back to his last mission to German region of Saxony, having been invited to inaugurate the Heidenau Information Centre of Deutsche Bahn, related to the Dresden – Usti nad Labem – Prague High Speed Rail line.

The meeting has had following topics:

- The Presentation of the Project Implementation Report 2023 by OEM CNC consultants (iC consulenten / Hacon).
- Updates (by DG MOVE staff) on states of play
- TEN-T revision
- CEF II (incl. calls of Military Mobility, Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Facility)
- CINEA Project Funding Dashboard
- Upcoming TEN-T Study on Climate Adaptation and Cross-Border Investment needs
- Connecting Europe Days 2024 in Brussels

Mr Grosch also presented the methodology on the European TEN-T coordinators joint document on financing aspects and recommendations for the upcoming financing period, to be ready for presentation in April 2024.

DG MOVE (Unit B3) presented the intentions of the European Commission on the Urban Mobility Policy and its relation to the upcoming TEN-T Regulation.

In his conclusions, Coordinator Grosch outlined his plans for missions, workshops and a final OEM Corridor Forum in the rest of 2023.

In the following Restricted meeting with MoT representatives [16:30 – 17:00], one minor issue was addressed, furthermore Member States were invited to liaise with MOVE B1 and CINEA.

Presentations were provided by Email after the meeting to all registered participants.

November 2023 / 19th CF

The 19th Corridor Forum Meeting of Orient/East-Med Core Network Corridor took place on Wednesday, 15 November 2023 from 14:00 until 17:30 CEST as a physical meeting in Brussels, CCAB (room 4.C).

The Coordinator, Mr Mathieu Grosch welcomed 30 participants, thereof 9 EC service staff and consultants. Except Romania and Slovakia, all MS were attending with at least one representative.

The meeting was the last OEM Corridor Forum as the OEM CNC will be split into the new ETC Rhine-Danube, Western Balkans – Eastern Mediterranean and Baltic Sea - Black Sea - Aegean Sea Corridor once the new TEN-T regulation is agreed and published. The acting deputy Director General and Director of DGMOVE, Mr Herald Rujiters, and the Head of Unit, Mr Eddy Liegeois, were partly attending the meeting, expressing their gratitude to the Coordinator, Mr Grosch, for his work in the Orient/East Med CNC as well as his role as frontrunner in topics like freight train border dwelling time and commercial delivery time.

Mr Grosch looked back on his last missions, to Greece mid-October as well as to Budapest for a meeting of the Joint Working Group on Rail Cross-border issues with the Rhine Danube CNC and the related Rail Freight Corridors on 25 October.

- The meeting addressed the following topics:
- The Final Report of the Coordinator (handed over to Mr Liegeois, DG MOVE B1) including the presentation of the achievements, KPI compliance and challenges on the OEM by the CNC consultants (iC consulenten) and the Projects of CEF I +II on the OEM CNC (by Ms Indre Venckunaite)

- Updates (by DG MOVE staff) on states of play:
 - State of new TEN-T regulation (by Ms Lotte Lankveld, Advisor of Mr Grosch)
 - Connecting Europe Days 2024 in Brussels
 - Budget 2024 and midterm review MFF
- Summary of the OEM Working Group on Rail Border Issues (by Mr Lőrinc Czako, Head of Management Board of the RFC 7)
- Actual challenges on the Corridor:
 - Climate Resilience: The Aftermath of Storm Daniel and the need for rehabilitation of the PATHE Rail Link in Thessaly (180 mn€), by Mr P. Terezakis, CEO of OSE
 - Cross-Border-Project: The Krušnohorský Rail Tunnel 26km (DE/CZ) by Mr Lukas Večerka, Správa Železnic (Czech Rail IM)
- The 5G Corridors (by Mr Athanasios Kaskamanidis)

In his conclusions, Coordinator Grosch thanked all actual and former members of the Corridor Forum and its Working Groups, his advisors, the team of consultants and of CINEA for their work achieved. He outlined that efficiency in all dimensions is key for CNC success.

The following Restricted meeting with MoT representatives did not take place due to the celebrational handover of the Final OEM Report.

4.2 Working Group Meetings of the Corridor Forum

October 2023:

The Working Group Meeting on Cross-Border Railway Issues was held jointly with the Rhine-Danube CNC and both related Rail Freight Corridors (RFC7 OEM and RFC9 RD) on **25 October 2023** at the premises of MÁV in Budapest. The following topics were discussed/presented in the meeting:

- General evolution of the Corridors OEM and Rhine-Danube and future outlooks
- RFC OEM cross-border points: achievements and next steps of cross-border cooperation
- Impact of the War of Aggression in Ukraine and Functioning of Solidarity Lanes from/to Ukraine, Adaptations in rail operation & modal shift
- The upcoming Study on TEN-T climate adaptation and cross-border investment needs and the upcoming ETC studies
- Exchange of views on the future cooperation / integration of RFCs and CNCs within European Transport Corridors (Regulation from 2024) and on the new Capacity management and Traffic management Regulation

4.3 Further Meetings

June 2022:

The Orient/East Med Corridor Meeting during the Connecting Europe Days 2023 in Lyon (France) were conducted on **28 June 2023** at the premises Lyon Convention Centre. The following topics were presented in the meeting:

- The 5th Work Plan of the European Coordinator for the OEM CNC
- Overview on actual disruptions in the OEM MS and along the OEM corridor
- Selected examples from the OEM CNC

- Ongoing infrastructure measures for improved IWW in Czechia
- Situation of Rail Freight Dwelling Times at border-crossing station in Hungary/Romania

5 Task 6 – Project and quality management

5.1 Overview on PM/QM efforts

Project management and coordination activities are a continuous activity in order to fulfil the subtasks of each work package. Reference is made to the QM criteria set out in the Technical offer. Main efforts in this field were:

- Regular communication of team leader and senior experts with the policy advisor at DG MOVE by phone and Email and through management meetings
- Permanent knowledge and information exchanges within the CNC study team by means of video and phone conferences, Emails and joint cloud server.
- Regular checks of quality, timeliness and language quality of analyses and deliverables
- Active participation in cross-Corridor working groups resp. follow-up and discussion of intermediate results achieved.
- Integration of senior experts for internal supervision of quality and efficiency

Besides the present Final Administrative Report, further main results of this activity are:

- The regular *Monthly Activity Report* issued by the CNC study team leader for the interest of and discussion with the Policy Advisor
- Participation and follow-up of the *Management Meetings* and connected bilateral meetings between study team leader and policy advisor.

5.2 Management Meetings

Management meetings of the 2018-2023 Core Network Corridor Studies (CNC) were scheduled by DG MOVE and are jointly prepared by the contractors responsible for the 9 CNCs (and MoS & ERTMS) and the DG MOVE.

June 2022

The extraordinary **Management Meeting on CNC Studies** was held on **24 June 2022** via online conference. The following topics were discussed/presented in the meeting:

- Amendment of service contracts for an extended third phase (months 53-66)
- Preparation of the Connecting Europe Days in Lyon;
- State of Play of TEN-T Regulation revision
- Activities and budget for third phase – amendments on the proposed SoW

March 2023

The 9th **Management Meeting on CNC Studies** was held on **13 February 2023** via online conference. The following topics were discussed/presented in the meeting:

- Deliverables of CNC studies in 2023
- ERTMS and MoS deliverables in 2023
- Commission's information on 2022 Military Mobility CEF call for proposal.
- Next Multi-annual financial perspectives

6 Summary

The last 13 months-phase of the 3rd Studies on the TEN-T CNC and the support of the Coordinators have again shown a highly professional conduct regarding the analysis and reporting on behalf of the Consultants, laying at the same time solid ground for a smooth operation of the Corridor Forum and the Work of the Coordinator. All agreed tasks were successfully performed, and all outputs were delivered in a timely manner as well as in the foreseen quality.

The even more, as the Consultant's team agreed to prolong its activities without additional gratification in the months of June – September 2022, where they guided the final publication of the Coordinators 5th Work Plan during the Connecting Europe Days 2022 in Lyon (France) as well as to prepare and conduct a last Corridor Forum Meeting in September 2022 in Brussels.

With the proposal of the European Commission for the revision of the 9 Core Network Corridors of 14th December 2021¹, a continued existence of a separate Orient/East-Med Corridor after 2023 is not foreseen. Sections of the OEM shall mainly become integrated into an extended "Rhine-Danube" European Transport Corridor whereas others to join the newly established Corridors "Baltic – Black – Aegean Seas" as well as "Western Balkans".

With the Final Report of the Coordinator for the OEM, published at the 19th Corridor Forum, a final inventory of challenges along this Corridor was produced and can in future taken up by the new Coordinators and study teams of the consequent European Transport Corridors.

¹ COM/2021/812 final - Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 and Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulation (EU) 1315/2013

7 Appendix

Annex 01	Translations of Executive Summary of Final Report II (September 2022)
Annex 02	Project Implementation Report 1/23 (May 2023)
Annex 03	Project List 06/04/2023 incl. User Friendly Tool (June 2023)
Annex 04	Final Report (November 2023)
Annex 05	Volume of Monthly press reports (May 2022 – October 2023)
Annex 06	Volume of Monthly activity reports (May 2022 – September 2022)
Annex 07	Minutes of the 17 th OEM Corridor Forum (September 2022)
Annex 08	Minutes of the 18 th OEM Corridor Forum (June 2023)
Annex 08	Minutes of the 19 th OEM Corridor Forum (November 2023)
Annex 09	Minutes of OEM/RDC WGM on Cross-border Rail Issues (October 2023)
Annex 10	Agenda and Presentation of Lyon Corridor Meeting (June 2022)
Annex 11	Minutes of the 9 th MM (March 2023)

Note: All a.m. annexes were submitted to DG MOVE during the project execution and are not separately attached to this report.