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INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN VARIOUS RAILWAY FIELDS

Transmitted by the Government of Belarus and the Ministry of Transport of Ukraine

BELARUS

In accordance with Belarus's National Plan of Action on Environmental Health for the period 2001-2005, approved by the Council of Ministers in its Decision No. 1892 of 12 December 2000, measures to reduce the negative impact of the economic activity of railway enterprises on the environment for 2002 (No. 159N3 of 2 April 2002) have been approved for Belarusian railways.

The measures provide for improvement in the quality of waste water, reduction of soil pollution by petroleum products, limitation of water use to industrial needs, reduction in emissions of atmospheric pollutants, and recycling of paint and varnish waste products. These measures will be implemented through:

- Construction and remodelling of water treatment plants;
- Introduction of closed water circulation systems;
- Replacement of boiler installations with environmentally sound modular boiler installations;

- Remodelling of ventilation systems using air purification devices;
- Conversion of boiler installations to burn different kinds of fuel;
- Remodelling of workshops, with installation of pollutant scrubbing and trapping systems;
- A number of research and development projects are also being carried out on Belarusian railways;
- Research on waste water purification technologies;
- Study and development of measures to improve recycling methods at water treatment plants;
- Standards and methods of determining waste in the repair of locomotives;
- Development of guidelines, entitled “Environmental management system. Procedure for using international standard ISO 14000 on Belarusian railways”.

Ongoing training is provided for environmental protection specialists.

The principal aim of the Belarusian Rail Transport Act, the Statute on General-purpose Railway Transport, the Regulations on the Transport of Cargo (including Dangerous Cargo) is to meet the needs of passenger and goods transport while ensuring the safety of traffic and the security of transported goods, and to comply with environmental protection requirements. The aforementioned legislation has served as the basis for ensuring the stability of the Belarusian rail transport system. The Programme for the development of Belarusian railways to the Year 2010, adopted by the Council of Ministers of Belarus, has greatly facilitated these efforts.

The Comprehensive Traffic Safety Management and Labour Protection System is currently in operation on Belarusian railways. The purpose of its monitoring functions is to:

1. Introduce modern technical equipment and advanced technologies, and modernize and repair existing equipment and rolling stock;
2. Conduct measures to prevent violations of traffic safety;
3. Work with managerial personnel, training them and upgrading their skills, establish cultural centres and public support for passenger and goods transport.

In order to achieve these objectives, training centres to upgrade the qualifications of workers directly involved in rail transport have been established. The centres are equipped both with technical literature and computer systems for testing trainees and with apparatus and devices for the practical inculcation of skills for work in non-standard situations.

Railway depots, sorting and passenger facilities, and loading and unloading areas and sidings have been reorganized and are continuing to be modernized; new facilities are being built. With a view to monitoring, and creating safe conditions for, rolling stock in service, Belarusian railways have been, and are continuing to be, equipped with remote monitoring systems. Dispatchers are being given extended control over goods wagons as they traverse the Belarusian railway network. Work is in progress on the modernization of the centralized electrical points and signals system, and new means of rail traffic control are being introduced.

Considerable work has been carried out to maintain track facilities. The systematic conduct of major track repairs using Western European equipment, and significant work in the area of point replacement have speeded up considerably the movement of trains on the Belarusian main line and provide a sufficiently high degree of safety.

UKRAINE

1. Protection of the environment

Systems of environmental standards for rail transport, based on international standards, are being developed and introduced on Ukraine's railways.

Implementing the programme for the protection of the natural environment in rail transport in Ukraine for the period 1997-2006, sectoral enterprises are introducing new systems for purifying waste water using bioreactors; they are also making use of mobile incinerators and powerful recycling systems. Systems for collecting petroleum products have been introduced in railway depots.

In the near future, testing will begin on a national passenger carriage with a closed, environmentally sound sewage collection system.

2. Safety

Rail transport safety is a priority in Ukraine. With a view to improving the safety of rail traffic, the Rail Traffic Safety Improvement Programme was approved by a decision of the Cabinet of Ministers. Ukraine has already spent 45.3 million hryvnia on this programme.

A study of the safety of rolling stock has shown that the number of accidents, breakdowns and cases of human error has been decreasing from year to year.

Ukraine attaches great importance to ensuring the safety of its railways. The main areas of its efforts in this regard are: improvement of work and technological discipline; scrupulous implementation, by managers at all levels, of personal standards to ensure the safety of rail traffic; qualitative repair and ongoing maintenance of tracks and rolling stock, a communications network and other technical equipment; and modernization of technical equipment.

3. The introduction of new transport technologies and the use of modern technical equipment in the carriage of goods and passengers by rail, particularly when rail transport is combined with other forms of transport.

The Ministry of Transport of Ukraine has developed a number of long-term programmes to improve efficiency, introduce new technologies and ensure the competitiveness of rail services.

The implementation of the aforementioned programmes will promote the dynamic development of the sector with a view to meeting society's transport needs. Rail transport technology is being modernized.

With a view to improving the organization of goods transport and making better use of rolling stock, a standard handling technology for ports and port-side railway facilities, and a consignee coding system for the provision of information on scheduled foreign trade cargo shipments have been introduced, and a number of important transport infrastructure facilities have been built or reconstructed.

Considerable attention is being given to the development of combined (container and con trailer) carriage of goods by rail and road, which draws on the advantages of these two forms of transport. Ukraine has developed and begun to construct special rolling stock, and has conducted trial runs of container and con trailer trains.

Ukraine currently has a considerable reserve of 20-foot containers. There are opportunities for increasing the volume of combined forms of transport.
