Developing block trains from Asia to Europe

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TURKISH STATE RAILWAYS

«Developing block trains from Asia to Europe»
With the completion of the projects, the importance of the Silk Road connection will increase further and the connection of Europe to Middle East, Central Asia and China will have been ensured.
IN THE OLD SYSTEM
Running Time : 15 days
Commercial Speed : 5 km/h

IN THE NEW SYSTEM
Running Time : 3 days
Commercial Speed : 25 km/s
%95 of local and international railway freight transport is made by the block trains.

149 block trains are operated per day in both directions 135 of which are local and 14 of which are international.
Spare parts for automobiles are transported with swap-bodies between Cologne-Kosekooy. Annually, 12,000 swap-bodies are transported averagely with this train which started its operations in 2004.
In the framework of Gazelle Project between November 2010 and September 2011, 90,000 tones of natural gas pipes (141 kms long) were transported from Türkiye to Europe with a total of 130 runs of block trains which are wholly composed of TCDD wagons.
Miscellaneous goods have been transported by container train being operated reciprocally between Halkalı and Sopron 4 times in a week.
Miscellaneous goods have been transported by container train being operated reciprocally between Halkalı and Wien 2 times in a week.
Miscellaneous goods have been transported by container train being operated reciprocally between Halkalı and Ljubljana 3 times in a week.
At the 7th ECO Ministerial Meeting held on 15-17 April 2008 in Antalya, it was decided to launch the operation of a demonstration train between Turkey and Pakistan.

Between İstanbul and Islamabad, 6543 km of railway has been created.

THE ECO TRAIN ON ISLAMABAD-TEHRAN-İSTANBUL ROUTE: KEY FACTS
- The Train covers a 6543 km journey: 1990 km in Pakistan, 2603 km in Iran and 1950 km in Turkey.
- The total duration of travel was initially planned for 14 days, but now it is reduced to 10.5 days.
- More than 30% reduction in railway tariffs comparing with demonstration run.
- Regular run started on 2nd August 2010.
The Demonstration Train was launched on **14th August, 2009** from Islamabad.

Since the beginning of the train until now total **14 commercial train runs** were realized, **8 of which from Turkey** and **6 of which from Pakistan**.

Due to flood hit Pakistan, 475 containers, 5302 tons of lodging houses, tents, food stuff, water, diapers, hygiene sets and wet towels delivered to Pakistan by **15 trains organized for the transport of humanitarian relief**.

**Length of the Route (Islamabad-İstanbul)**

- **Pakistan**: 1990 km
- **Iran**: 2603 km
- **Turkey**: 1950 km
- **Total**: 6543 km
THE ADVANTAGES OF THE LINE

• Time Advantage
• Arrival from Pakistan and India via Turkey to Europe in a shorter time.
• Strengthening Turkey’s position as a bridge between Europe and Asia.
• Development of commercial, social and cultural relations among the countries of the region.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE LINE

• Price of railway transportation being higher than maritime transportation.
• Difference of the gauge of Pakistan from Turkey and Iran.
• Security.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Pakistan

• Development of the connection to India.
• Pakistan Railways’ membership to COTIF (Convention Concerning International Carriage by Rail)
• Rehabilitating Quetta-Taftan line of 559 km.

Iran

• Reducing the transfer time of the containers in Zahedan.
• Completing the rehabilitation works of the Kerman Zahedan line.

Turkey

• Solving the problem of Van Lake crossing.
Under the coordination of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and with the active support of the member countries, the first trial operation of container train was started on 20 January 2002 on Istanbul-Tehran-Tashkent-Almaty main Trans-Asia Railway Line Section.

Length of Route (İstanbul-Almaty):
- Turkey: 1950 km
- Iran: 2016 km
- Turkmenistan: 449 km
- Uzbekistan: 732 km
- Kyrgyzstan: 6 km
- Kazakhstan: 956 km
- Total: 6109 km
Tests services of "Eurasia Block Container Train" were performed between January 2002 and June 22nd, 2002 and from this date on the train started its regular services.

Up to today, **5,226 TEU** have been dispatched from different points to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.

Up to today (January 2013), via that train from **Turkey**;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Containers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>1391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2861</strong> container <strong>(5,226 TEU)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

have been transported.
The official opening ceremony of the Samsun-Kavkaz train ferry line was made on 19 February 2013. Approximately 60,000 tonnes of freight has been carried reciprocally until now with 2298 wagons in 61 train services within the sea trials of Samsun-Kavkaz.
Objectives:

Creating a combined transportation system between Turkey and Russia will reduce transportation costs and shorten the transport time.

- Contribute to the development of trade between Turkey and Russia, and develop connections to the Black Sea ports of the TRACECA corridor.

- Through Turkey and Russia, it will also provide a link to the Black Sea coastal countries (Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria), Turkic Republics and the Scandinavian countries, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Central Asia, India and China.
Kars-Tbilisi railway line is going to be put into operation in 2014.

- KARS – TBILISI NEW RAILWAY LINE (78 km)
- Ankara-İstanbul, Ankara-Sivas High Speed Line (999 km double track)
- Marmaray Project (İstanbul Strait Tube Pass)
- Lake Van Pass and Kars-Nahcevan-İran
Total Length : 101 km
Kars - Georgia : 73 km
Turkey - Ahilkelek : 28 km

Construction in Georgia started on 21.11.2007
Construction in Turkey started on 24.7.2008

New Construction in Georgia: 29 km
New Construction in Turkey: 76 km
Existing Line in Georgia
Existing Line in Turkey
• With the realization of Marmaray, Kars-Tblisi-Baku and Zhezkazgan-Beineu Projects, total distance will be decreased to 5798 km by shortening 1200 km.
• Travel time will be decreased to 12 days from 16 days.
Thank you for your attention...