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TRANSPORT TRENDS AND ECONOMICS
Euro-Asian transport links

Addendum 1

Transmitted by the Government of Turkey

1. A Block Container train from Istanbul to Almaty started its demonstration run on 20 January 2002. This service has been regularised since 22 June 2002. Trains depart from Istanbul on Saturdays and from Almaty on Mondays each week.
 2. After 8 trial runs and 31 regular trips, 416 containers have been dispatched from Istanbul. The trains have not been loaded as heavily as was originally foreseen because of difficulties in obtaining containers, and also due to the lack of organisation for return trips.
 3. TCDD, DB Cargo and Schenker Railog arranged a meeting in Istanbul on 7 November 2002 to discuss a train to operate from Halkaly / Istanbul to München. During this meeting a decision was taken regarding the extension of the said train to Germany by Pan-European Transport Corridor No. 4 and also to the seaport of Ljanjungan in China.
 4. Furthermore, the establishment of a joint tariff and the elimination of barriers faced by this train were discussed at the 7th meeting of Heads of Railway Administrations of ECO countries in Dushanbe, (Tajikistan, 23-25 December 2002). Unfortunately, TCDD could not participate in this meeting.
 5. Some of the problems which arose, such as the establishment of a joint tariff, payment facilities for customers, the organization of return trips and the acquisition of containers, will be discussed at the meeting of the Heads of Railway Undertakings, to be held under the auspices of ECO at the beginning of February 2003. TCDD has been more active than ever in arranging this meeting.
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