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INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN VARIOUS RAILWAY FIELDS

Addendum 3

Transmitted by the Government of Russian Federation

Environmental protection

Sectoral environmental programmes designed to enhance the quality of the environment are at the centre of environmental protection activity on the railways.

The Environmental Programme for Transport in the Period 1996-2000 came to an end in 2000. During the five-year programme, emissions of atmospheric pollutants were cut by 24%, discharges of polluted waste water into surface water bodies were cut by 38%, and more than 20% of industrial waste has been processed and treated. Recycling systems mean that more than 50% of the water consumed annually by railway enterprises in industrial processes can be reused.

A total of 78 environmental protection facilities were put into service during this period, of which 38 are water purifying plants with a total throughput of 18.5 million cubic metres a year.

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Considerable efforts have been made to develop environmental protection technologies and equipment.

A special structure has been set up within the sector to manage environmental protection. Much has been done to develop industrial-environmental laboratories and to train specialists in the field of environmental protection.

Pursuant to Decision No. 23 of the central administrative board of the Ministry of Transport dated 24-25 December 1999, an environmental programme has been elaborated for rail transport in the period 2001-2005. It is envisaged that the programme measures will be implemented through the introduction of low-waste technologies and up-to-date environmental protection equipment. The principal aims of the programme are:

- To enhance the sector's environmental security;
- To further reduce emissions (discharges) of pollutants into the environment;
- To reduce industrial waste volumes;
- To improve the environmental situation in the regions;
- To reduce consumption of natural resources.

As a result of the measures envisaged under the sectoral environmental programme, emissions of atmospheric pollutants will be cut by 15,800 tonnes or 7% and discharges of polluted waste water into surface water bodies will be cut by 13 million cubic metres or 30%. The amount of waste generated by industrial processes will be reduced by 7,700 tonnes. Enterprises plan to recycle 19,700 tonnes of waste for use in production processes and various other activities.