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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Rail Transport  
(Fifty-seventh session, 21-23 October 2003,  
agenda item 9)

**THE ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN THE PROMOTION  
OF COMBINED TRANSPORT**

**Addendum 1**

**Transmitted by the Belarusian Railways**

In order to ensure all transport services the railways have made the necessary facilities available at border crossings for handling the complete range of goods to be carried.

Great attention is being devoted by the Belarusian railways not only to the technical equipment of terminals, but also to improving the existing services offered to goods owners in order to arrange for freightage on the "door-to-door" principle. At most terminals today goods are already being delivered by the road transport of the railways from the railway station to the recipient's warehouse and vice versa. A system of full and integrated services to clients is being utilized at many terminals, including not only all rail operations for the dispatch or handover of goods, and their delivery by the railways' road transport, but also the completion of customs formalities, with clients not needing to go to the station to fetch or send the goods. A number of customs warehouses for temporary freight storage have been opened with a view to extending the range of services.

Much of the railways' attention is being paid to container transport, both in transit operations and in export-import and domestic services. There are 15 container terminals at railway stations for handling large-tonnage containers, and also 29 terminals for handling medium-tonnage containers.

In order to expedite the processing of paperwork at the Malaszewicze and Brest border stations, operated by Polish State Railways and Belarusian Railways respectively, a unified data-processing system has been developed and introduced at the Malaszewicze-Brest crossing to facilitate the movement of wagons, containers and freight over the State border.

Computer software has been developed to provide guidance through the Internet to goods owners and forwarders for the formulation of accompanying documents taking into account the requirements of the national customs authorities of Belarus and Russia.

The Belarusian railways are cooperating actively with the railways of Russia, Poland, Germany and Lithuania in the implementation of a number of projects to organize freightage by specialized container and goods trains on specially approved schedules, providing for a considerable reduction in delivery times, and giving the appropriate technical and information support.

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