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Working Party on Rail Transport
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INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN VARIOUS RAILWAY FIELDS

Transmitted by the Government of Finland

Please note that the distribution of documentation for the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) is no longer "restricted". Accordingly, the secretariat has adopted a new numbering system whereby all working documents other than reports and agendas are numbered as follows: TRANS/SC.2/year/serial number. Reports, agendas, resolutions and major publications will retain their previous numbering system (i.e. TRANS/SC.2/18

FINLAND

- (a) Environmental questions related to railway operations.

VR Cargo, which is responsible for goods traffic within VR Group, received environmental certificate ISO 14001;

- electrification was completed on the line between Tampere and Rauma, thus increasing the share of electric traffic in train-kilometres from 67.4% to 68.8%;

VR Group's parent company, VR-Group Ltd, published its first environmental report covering the years 1996-1997.

- soil studies were carried out at diesel refuelling points and in oil storage depots in order to determine the need for more detailed studies.

- (b) Safety in railway transport.

Most important fulfilled or started measures in 1998:

- new programme improving the railway traffic started September 1998;
- training programme for staff (drivers etc.) started;
- monitoring system of the train safety based on quality thinking was made ready for use in the end of 1998;
- new routes using automatic train control (ATC) : Kerava - Riihimäki - Hämeenlinna - Toijala.

- (c) Use of computers in rail transport, in particular in the management of rail goods traffic.

Work continued on the development of a wagon and consignment tracing system, covering the EU and the Russian Federation. The system includes transport schedule follow-up and deviation reporting.

Work continued on the development of an EDP system for the border stations on both sides of the Finnish-Russian border. The system serves the receipt of EDI messages, customs clearance, forwarding operations, and the transmission of transport data to forwarding agents, customers, etc., as well as to VR Cargo's other operative systems.

New reports serving the management and planning of VR Cargo's transport production were prepared on the basis of the database of realised transport data. Data transmission between weigh bridges and the operative transport production system was automated. Moreover, data on weighed wagons can be transmitted via data links directly to the customer's data system.

Work was in progress on a system for the planning of transport production in goods traffic;

- in wagonload traffic, an EDI message solution was taken in use by means of which the dispatcher is informed when the wagonloads have been delivered to the consignee;
- the invoicing system was modified in preparation for the introduction of the EURO
- separate accounting systems were set up for eastern and western international traffic;

- (d) Introduction of new transport technologies and application of modern techniques to railway operations, in particular regarding the interface between rail transport and other transport modes.

No new developments.
