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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Rail Transport  
(Fifty-sixth session, 16-18 October 2002  
agenda item 11 (a))

**INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN VARIOUS RAILWAY FIELDS**

**Transmitted by the Committee of the Organization for Cooperation  
between Railways (OSZhD)**

Environmental protection continues to be a major challenge today. Tasks for addressing environmental issues in rail transport in the OSZhD member countries were set at the twenty-sixth session of the OSZhD Ministerial Meeting (Minsk, 1998).

In pursuance of these tasks a number of instruments concerning environmental protection, in whose elaboration the 15 OSZhD members are now taking part, were prepared in OSZhD Commission I.

A number of instruments *on environmental protection* were prepared in the OSZhD Commission on transport policy, ecology and combined transport. The following were agreed upon and approved:

- Recommendations on unified standards concerning environmental emissions in the operation of rail transport, having due regard for land classification;
- Recommendations for dealing with the environmental consequences of accidents during the carriage of dangerous goods;
- Recommendations on assessing the environmental impact of noise from rail transport;
- Methods to develop environmentally sound chemical techniques for the control of vegetation on railway tracks;
- A study of electromagnetic radiation in rail transport was undertaken and recommendations have been drawn up to secure safe levels of electromagnetic radiation in the environment.

Work is now in progress on:

- Drafting recommendations for the disposal of waste formed during rail transport operations. A uniform classification of industrial waste from rail transport enterprises will be prepared;
- Drafting basic guidelines on environmental protection on the railways of OSZhD member countries.

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