



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.5/2003/4  
TRANS/SC.2/2003/4  
14 July 2003

Original: ENGLISH

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics**

(Sixteenth session, 24-26 September 2003,  
agenda item 6 (b))

**EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT LINKS**

Organization of demonstration trains

Transmitted by the Government of Turkey

The container train connection, with trains of about 20 container wagons, has been operating since 20 January 2002 on a trial basis once a week on the line Istanbul-Tehran-Tashkent-Almaty.

After 8 trial runs, the container train Istanbul-Almaty, from 22 June 2002, onwards undertook 51 regular runs and hauled 537 containers to date.

Due to the difficulties encountered in the provision of containers and the lack of organization in returning containers, this container train cannot be operated at full capacity. The degree of utilization of the container trains did not yet reach the maximum targeted.

During the forthcoming first meeting of the Isosteering Team of ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization), which is in charge of monitoring the container trains in the Trans-Asian main corridor, a number of pertinent questions will be addressed. The meeting will deal with and settle questions concerning the timetable, border crossing procedures and tariffs as well as measures to be taken in respect of regular train traffic.

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