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ISTANBUL-ALMATY CONTAINER TRAIN

Addendum 1

Transmitted by the Government of Turkey

The trips of the Istanbul-Tehran-Tashkent-Almaty Container Block Train that started its trial run on 20.01.2002 have been regularized since 22 June so that they reciprocally depart from Istanbul on Saturdays, and from Almaty on Mondays each week. Up to now, it has dispatched 248 containers from Istanbul by 8 trial runs and 7 regular trips.

Though it has advantages in transportation costs and in travel times, the forwarders face difficulties in obtaining the said containers and in the lack of organization for their return. Thus, the train trips could not be utilized as much as was foreseen so far. In order to eliminate these disadvantages, work is being carried out by TCDD concerning container supply and market acquisition, and concerning delivery of the round trip's organization to professional forwarders.

Whilst TCDD is cooperating with the private sector in order to follow up said train trips electronically, the said train trips are still being introduced in international trade and transportation conferences and fairs in order to increase their utilization.

Also, some problems which occurred will be discussed in the Meeting of the Heads of Railway Administrations to be organized under ECO, in Dushanbe, September 2002.

In addition, according to the decision that was taken to extend the said train route by the 4th Corridor to Germany and to Ljanjungan, a sea port of China, during the 3rd Meeting of the ECO Working Group that was organized in Van/Turkey, TCDD is still performing the necessary work to connect the full block container train, of which the relevant studies are still being continued, to be run between Germany and Halkali, with the Istanbul-Almaty block container train.

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