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EURO-ASIAN TRANSPORT LINKS

Organization of demonstration trains

Submitted by the Government of the Russian Federation

The Office of International Relations reports that the Ministry of Railways of the Russian Federation is equally interested in organizing demonstration runs of container trains on all five routes of the northern corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway and is already in a position to carry out these runs.

The Trans-Siberian Railway is a key element of all five routes.

The Trans-Siberian Railway is today a major two-track railway line, fully electrified, stretching some 10,000 kilometres. Its technical capacity enables it to handle up to 100 million tons of goods per year, including up to 140,000 20-foot containers in international transit.

The infrastructure of the Trans-Siberian Railway is undergoing continuous modernization. Vital improvements in railway stations on the borders with Mongolia, China and Korea have been carried out, approaches to seaports have been upgraded and container terminals are being modernized to meet international standards for the handling of 40-foot containers.

A number of steps are also being taken to lower tariffs for the transport of goods in transit on the Trans-Siberian Railway, to simplify customs procedures, to accelerate the transport of goods, to track the movement of transit containers in real time and to improve conditions for the safe carriage of goods.

An important role in organizing demonstration runs of container trains along the five northern-corridor routes of the Trans-Asian Railway will be played by the second meeting of the Steering Committee on the conduct of demonstration runs along the routes of the corridor in question, which was originally scheduled to be held in China in the first half of 2003.
