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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Rail Transport

(Fifty-third session, 6-8 October 1999,
agenda item 9)

DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN CONVENTIONAL AND
HIGH-SPEED RAILWAY NETWORK

Transmitted by the Governments of Finland and Turkey

Note: At its fifty-second session, the Working Party requested Governments, the European Commission (EC), the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Organization for the Co-operation of Railways (OSZhD) to provide relevant information on the development of (i) a European Conventional Railway Network and (ii) a European High-Speed Railway Network (including information on the complementarity between high-speed railway and air transport, regional development, regional transport and urban transport) (TRANS/SC.2/190, para. 50).

The Working Party may wish to consider the information transmitted by the UIC on this item, which is reproduced below.

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 will be 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.2/189).

FINLAND

(i) Upgrading of conventional rail network has continued.

(ii) Finland's international rail network is part of the TEN network. Today high speed trains operate between Helsinki and Turku. Other planned high speed lines are Helsinki - Seinajoki and Helsinki - Vainikkala continuing to St. Petersburg. The upgrading work on these lines is progressing and they will be ready by the year 2010 at the latest. Finland intends to make a proposal concerning these high speed lines to include them in the EU next TEN high speed map.

TURKEY

Information on the activities (investments) regarding the development of a conventional railway network has already been given above. Concerning the development of a high-speed network, TCDD envisages to build a high-speed railway line between the two cities (namely Istanbul and Ankara), but the connection of this line to the European high-speed railway network will be considered later, according to the developments of neighbouring countries.
