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(Information)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

of 17 December 1990

on the development of a European high-speed rail network

(91/C 33/01)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

1. welcomes, in view of the importance attached by the European Council of 14 and 15 December 1990 to the development of large infrastructure networks, the communication on the European high-speed rail network which the Commission has submitted to it following consultation of the Working Party set up as a result of the Resolution adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4 and 5 December 1989;

2. welcomes the discussions held to draw up an outline plan specifying the priority measures for establishing the European network. This plan is given in Annex I. The key links in the network are listed in Annex II.

   It notes the progress made in formulating technical conditions to ensure that infrastructure, equipment and rolling stock are compatible and that trains can run across international boundaries;

3. requests the Commission to look in greater detail, together with the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, the railway companies and the rail industry, at:

   — the socio-economic impact of the network on the integrated transport market and the development of the Community, particularly bearing in mind the gauge change in the Iberian Peninsula,

   — the impact of the network on the environment in the broadest sense and how it compares with other modes of transport in this regard,

   — economic studies, including, amongst other things, the commercial aspects of the key links and other crucial points in the network and the problem of financing them;

4. requests the Commission to continue studying the key links and to consider how the development of the Community's relations with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries and the Central and Eastern European countries will affect the network;

5. notes the Commission's intention of preparing a draft Directive on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions concerning rail traffic and emphasizes the need to carry out joint initiatives as soon as possible to harmonize command and control systems;

6. expresses its satisfaction with the Working Party's results and requests the Commission to consult this Working Party again on all the topics mentioned above.

ANNEX II

Key links in the European high-speed rail network

1. Hamburg — Copenhagen
2. Belfast — Dublin — Holyhead — Crewe
3. Utrecht — Arnhem — Emmerich — Duisburg
4. Connections in the area of Strasbourg and Saarbrücken
5. London — Tunnel
6. Brussels — Luxembourg
7. Rhine — Rhône
8. Lyon — Turin
9. Madrid — Barcelona — Perpignan
10. (a) Porto — Lisbon — Madrid
    (b) Vitoria — Dax
11. Milan — Basel
12. Brenner route
13. Tarvisio — Vienna
14. Routes to and within Greece