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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Rail Transport  
(Fifty-second session, 5-7 October 1998,  
agenda item 8)

FACILITATION OF BORDER CROSSING IN  
INTERNATIONAL RAIL TRANSPORT

Addendum 2

Transmitted by the Governments of Italy and Portugal

Please note that the distribution of documents for the Principal Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) is no longer "restricted". Accordingly, the secretariat has adopted a new numbering system whereby all working documents will be numbered as follows: TRANS/SC.2/year/serial number. Reports, agendas, resolutions and major publications will continue to follow the previous numbering system (i.e. TRANS/SC.2/187).

**(a) Average waiting time for passenger and goods trains at main border crossing points**

**ITALY**

Following the implementation of the Schengen Agreement, stops at the borders of member countries, including Italy, and Customs, police and health checks have been eliminated and delays due to checks therefore no longer exist. There is some delay, generally of not more than 15-20 minutes, at the Villa Opicina and Gorizia borders. Endeavours are being made to improve the situation with the collaboration of neighbouring States. In order to reduce delays in the future, any change of hauling locomotives between networks with different electric power supply systems should be avoided.

**PORTUGAL**

In view of the global nature of this item, there is no inflexible rule in Portugal as regards facility in border crossing, especially where goods trains are concerned.

However, as regards (c), measures have been taken through the implementation of an operations plan which uses its own traction, thus involving a clearly-defined timetable and line.

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