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PRESS RELEASE

STUDY SESSION ON RAILWAY PROBLEMS

Following a decision of the EEC Council of Ministers, a study session on railway problems will be held in Brussels from 24 to 28 October 1966 under the aegis of the EEC Commission.

Aim

The railways are in a process of transformation which affects techniques, economics and organization.

In this process it is important to define the general lines of railway policy in the framework of the common transport policy.

This seminar will provide an opportunity to define, in the light of the aims and fundamental principles of the common transport policy, the role of railways in the transport economy and the measures which need to be taken for this type of transport as this policy is implemented.

The two main aspects to be examined are:

- (i) Relations between railways and the public authorities;
- (ii) Adaptation of the railways to trends in the transport market.

Programme

M. Lambert Schaus, a member of the Commission, will give the opening address.

M. Paolo Rho, Director-General of Transport in the EEC Commission and Chairman of the meeting, will outline the problems to be discussed.

Officials from the national government departments will present the following reports:

Report No. 1: "Legal and financial system of the railways: statute and budget equilibrium". Rapporteur: M. H. Stukenberg, member of the Managing Board of the Federal German Railways, Frankfurt.

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- Report No. 2: "Intervention by the public authorities and their influence on the competition situation". Rapporteur: M. M.G. De Bruin, Director-General of the Netherlands Railways, Utrecht.
- Report No. 3: "Price formation". Rapporteur: M. P. Protat, Head of the Railways Department, Ministry of Equipment, State Secretary for Transport, Paris.
- Report No. 4: "Optimum operational structure from the angle of the general economy and of the economy of the enterprise". Rapporteur: M. F. Santoro, principal executive assistant to the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, Rome.
- Report No. 5: "Co-operation of the railways with the other types of transport, with users and between railway administrations of the Member States". Rapporteur: N. J. Denis, Chief Engineer, Director in the Ministry of Communications, Transport Department, Brussels.

Director-General Paolo Rho will present a collective report.

The concluding address will be given by M. Lambert Schaus.

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M. Paolo Rho, Director-General of Transport, will present an account of the seminar to:

The Community Committee of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF);

The European Transport Committee of the IFCTU;

The International Union of Railways (Community group).

These bodies will make known their comments.

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The study session is not open to the public, a press communiqué will be published at the close of the session.