



BICYCLE RESEARCH REPORT NO. 9

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN PLENARY SESSION:

REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS

Transport ministers jointly oppose road and air transport; bicycle ignored

The Key Facts

In response to the congestion and environmental damage on the roads of Europe, the parliament of the Council of Europe has approved a report whose recommendations include shifting trans-Alpine traffic onto the railways, making the fullest possible use of rail and maritime transport, and preventing accidents by encouraging a change in driving habits.

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Harmonization and liberalization, an inadequate infrastructure, environmental damage, insufficient rail facilities, the problem of trans-Alpine traffic and the high rate of road accidents have all brought the Council of Europe to the decision to change their priorities to rail and maritime transport.

Representing 21 countries from northern, western and southern Europe, the members of the Council of Europe have approved a report calling for decisive changes in European transport policy. These are due in particular to the increase in road and air traffic brought about by further integration and economic growth, and the present traffic jams and environmental damage which road transport has caused.

A lack of preventive measures is identified in the areas of driving behaviour, monitoring and control of traffic, separation of different transport modes, checks on vehicles and research into accidents. The efforts of the ECMT should be supported, especially in changing driving habits, so as to reduce significantly the number of people killed and injured on the roads.

There is keen support for the proposal to improve rail links through the Alps by the 'Rail 2000' project, and to make more intensive use of combined rail/lorry transport. However, there is one transport mode on which the Council of Europe's paper has no view at all: the bicycle.

Source

Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly: Report on the Activities of the



European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) in 1987 and 1988
vom 12.1.1990 Doc 6161

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