

**Joint Statement
by Delegates of the European Parliament and the
Association „Magistrale für Europa“**

**Concerning the Rapid Realisation of the
Continuous High-Speed Rail Line**

„Magistrale für Europa“

**Paris - Nancy - Strasbourg - Karlsruhe - Stuttgart -
Ulm - Augsburg - Munich - Salzburg - St. Pölten -
Vienna - Budapest**

Strasbourg, January 15, 2003

The rail line „Magistrale für Europa“ running from Paris via Strasbourg, Stuttgart, Munich, Salzburg and Vienna to Budapest is the central east-west axis in the heart of Europe. It forms the backbone for a pan-European rail network linking cities and regions that are home to a total of 34 million people, including 16 million employed persons, in France, Germany, Austria and Hungary.

The conversion of the „Magistrale für Europa“ into a continuous high-speed line is one of the prerequisites for the rapid economic, political and cultural integration of Eastern and Western Europe. A scientific report commissioned by the association „Magistrale für Europa“ and cofinanced by the European Union has confirmed the manifold benefits that a rapid upgrading of the line would bring in terms of integration, stimulation of the economy and locational advantages.

In October 2001 the Commission of the European Union emphasized the Pan-European importance of the „Magistrale für Europa“ by suggesting to include the entire line from Paris to Vienna in the list of priority projects of the Transeuropean Networks. In view of the forthcoming EU extension, it would be quite reasonable to continue its upgrading to Budapest and beyond.

To ensure the rapid conversion of the „Magistrale für Europa“ into a continuous high-speed rail connection from Paris to Budapest via Strasbourg, Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, Munich and Vienna, we call upon

1. the Council of Ministers of Transport

to endorse the decision of the European Parliament and to consent to the inclusion of the entire line from Paris to Vienna in the list of priority projects of the Transeuropean Networks; this would also open up the opportunity for the project to be cofinanced by the European Union to the extent of ten percent of the investment costs,

2. the decision-making bodies and institutions of the national states of France, Germany, Austria and Hungary

to firmly anchor the upgrading of the „Magistrale für Europa“ in their national transport master plans and to provide the necessary funds for the rapid realization of this project,

3. the French, German, Austrian and Hungarian companies in charge of the rail infrastructure, in coordination with the national states,

to initiate the planning procedures and building work required for the rapid realization of the project,

4. the national states and the railway companies

to launch in particular the development of cross-border solutions (solutions in the technical field as well as in the field of transport planning) to clear the bottlenecks presently existing in some areas.

- The sections concerned are
- in the German-French border area the section Baudrecourt - Strasbourg - Rhine Bridge - Appenweier and
 - in the German-Austrian border area the sections Munich - Mühldorf - Freilassing - Salzburg - Linz,

5. the national states in Southeastern Europe,

to include the extension of the „Magistrale für Europa“ beyond Budapest in their national medium and long-term transport master plans.

Strasbourg, January 15, 2003

Representating the association
„Magistrale für Europa“

Heinz Fenrich

Chairman of the association „Magistrale
für Europa“ and Lord Mayor
of the City of Karlsruhe

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