

We are aware that in early 1993, 18 industrially developed countries of Western Europe are planning to form a single market with free movement of goods and services, capital and workers across borders. And if we now fail to adopt electronic document exchange, this will threaten us with a real loss of competitiveness, especially in transporting freights of foreign shippers. In order to convert to paperless technology, PEPI must solve three basic problems. The first is to establish a reliable, low-cost link between the computers of those participating in the transport process, and to do this in accordance with international standards so that it will be possible to interact with similar data transmission networks aboard. The second problem is to create an EDI service for electronic information exchange, teaching all of the computers taking part in the process to understand one another. And, finally, the third problem is to formulate and implement unified document norms that conform to EDI FACT standards.

It should also be pointed out that the EDI and EDI FACT systems in the western European countries enjoy active support and even receive subsidies from national governments. And just how promising and essential is the task that PEPI is undertaking one can clearly judge from the fact that the French firm Transpac, one of the world's largest communications companies, was paying serious attention to the presentation. Essentially, the association's work is aimed at traversing in a mere 2 to 3 years a distance that foreign firms required for 8 to 12 years to travel.

And so, those who do not want to be left behind in technological advances should hurry to take advantage of the services offered by PEPI. By the way, despite the youth of the association and the fact that its organizational period here is just now ending, it has already received its first orders.

Vodnyi transport

27 November 1990

Page 3 (full text)