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## **INVESTMENTS ON EUROPEAN WIDE GREEN HIGH-SPEED RAIL NETWORK**

High-speed rail is emerging in Europe as increasingly popular, environmental friendly and efficient means of transport. The first high-speed rail lines in Europe, built in the 1980s and 1990s, improved travel times on intra-national corridors. Since then, several countries have built extensive high-speed networks, and there are now several cross-border high-speed rail links.

As of 2012, several countries — France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands, Russia and the United Kingdom — are connected to a cross-border high-speed railway network.

This is expected to change improve, as seen in the Baltic region for example, in the coming years as Europe invests heavily in tunnels, bridges and other infrastructure and development projects across the continent, many of which are under construction now.

We fear that a turn away from investments in green high-speed rail will affect EU member countries as well as neighbouring countries in a negative manner, both from an environmental perspective as well as from a social one. Green high-speed rail is both CO2 efficient and an attractive way for citizens to travel.

We are convinced that Europe needs more green high-speed rail that connects its countries and improves growth possibilities in the region, and better job possibilities as the labour distance will shorten and you can easily work in one city and live in another.

We also find it important to make sure that investments in railway does not lead to higher prices for the individual. The more sustainable transportation manner must also be the best economic alternative.

Therefore we call on the Young European Socialists YES to adopt this resolution and:

1. Influence the European Union so that it will invest in European wide green high-speed rail network.
2. To put pressure on European countries so that they will increase cooperation in order to ameliorate transnational train communications.