

To the Ministers of Transport

Paris, 23 May 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

— After the election of UIC new Chairman and Vice Chairman, we wish to remind the purpose of the International Union of Railways (UIC).

Our association, since 1922, is the only technical non-governmental platform, at world level, able to promote independently the technical, economic, social and human benefits of rail transport as well as its fundamentals.

Through **our values of unity, universality and solidarity**, and **our philosophy to share, to open and to connect**, UIC is promoting the added value of the railway mode as a backbone of transport in all countries giving more relevance to the interoperable, interconnected, and integrated railways..

1. UIC, international platform of technical expertise serving railway projects

Our core mission has been to harmonise and unify the conditions of design, construction and use of railways at international level, on behalf of the railway operating community.

UIC is the only railway organisation bringing together all the operational stakeholders of the railway sector at world level: integrated railway companies, infrastructure managers, passenger and freight railway transport operators, research institutes, etc.

Based on technical compatibility, interoperability and railway standardisation, UIC has extended its activities to all the areas through which the attractiveness and competitiveness of rail transport of people or goods can be boosted such as operational performance, environmental protection, security, management, economic impacts, cost-reduction, etc.

Besides, UIC has always been an important actor to federate research and innovation at world level, today also through a specific digital platform.

2. A wealth of expertise drawn from the members

The sum of railway expertise within UIC is made up of the expertise of its members, who represent 1 million kilometres of railway infrastructure, 10,000 billion tonne-kilometres, 3,000 billion passenger-kilometres and a global community of 7 million railway employees throughout the world, at the service daily of the mobility of 7 billion people on earth.



The task of bringing together these remarkable elements is carried out in the form of specialised UIC international cooperation structures (forums, platforms, etc.), developing a set of 700 UIC International Railway Standardised Technical Solutions, covering all the areas and disciplines of railway activities as normative recommendations.

These UIC voluntary solutions for design construction, operation, maintenance or services, are used at world level in many specifications, as national or international standards, calls for tenders, etc. Many normative provisions, such as the European TSIs began in effect as work or studies coordinated by UIC, often in close cooperation with the industry and with other institutions.

Efforts have been made to achieve fruitful cooperation and complementarity with standardisation bodies such as ISO, IEC and CEN-CENELEC.

3. Recognition for UIC's competence and international expertise in project management

Since 2008, more than 200 projects have been launched with UIC as a technical or managerial coordinator. In addition to its traditional members, UIC provides advice or assistance in preparing calls for tenders to railway supervisory authorities such as the European Commission, or other international stakeholders.

UIC's solid assets, through the experience of its members, and also thanks to technical partnerships with manufacturers throughout the world, major sponsors, bodies formed through the United Nations and other intergovernmental organisations (OSJD, BSEC, ECO, OECD, etc.), or financial institutions such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank or the European Investment Bank, are all emphasizing our role particularly in developing rail in Green House Gas reduction and international transport corridors.

This accumulated experience within UIC is key to the transmission of knowledge to younger generations, through our specific training centers and partnerships with universities .

We hope this quick overview will help you towards giving all your support to the development of rail transport in your region and to UIC, as the only global and worldwide association promoting that development and we are ready to support you and your administration to promote rail. We would appreciate if you could indicate us the person in your administration to refer for such matters.

Faithfully Yours,

Renato Mazzoncini
Chairman UIC
CEO FS Group

Jean-Pierre Loubinoux
Director General UIC

Isa Apaydin
Vice Chairman UIC
CEO TCDD