



10th UIC World Security Congress
Lisbon, 27 November 2014
Opening speech by Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director General

Directors-General
Distinguished delegates
Partners and Friends

It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this opening session of the UIC World Security Congress, taking place this year in Portugal, having previously being held in various countries in Europe and elsewhere.

In the words of Louis Armand, former President of SNCF and former UIC Chairman: “rail travel will be the mode of transport of the 21st century if it survives the 20th.” This sentence, which was of course referring to technical progress in the railways, the need for land planning in our countries, economic aspects, etc., is of particular importance in the context of a security congress, as our aim is to prepare for rail’s future by protecting its current operation as well as its future development.

Each railway company and UIC region defines its strategy in the short, medium and long-term, but implementing this development requires our systems to be protected, both:

- Against the risks and defects of internal operations
- Against external risks such as extreme climatic conditions and geo-physical events
- Against external threats due to malicious intent or harmful behaviour.

This protection consists of the concepts of safety in the traditional sense, which has always been at the core of railway professions, and the security of people and goods which has become a growing constraint. The growing complexity of our railway systems means that each of these aspects requires an increasing number of specialists, who are able to implement increasingly sophisticated technology, and develop increasingly detailed procedures – the success of which will depend on how effectively each issue is addressed.

But despite these specialisations, the customer’s point of view – whether in passenger or freight traffic – is perhaps much more transversal: the customer wants transport to run smoothly, whatever the cause of disruption and those involved.

Bringing more coherence between policies or strategies regarding safety, and policies or strategies regarding security, is essential. Their main purpose is to reduce the possible causes of incidents in each of these areas and at the same time mitigate the consequences. No matter how effective our measures, there will always be incidents or accidents, and therefore one has to monitor the resiliency of our systems, the conditions in which operations are resumed following incidents, and the management of crisis situations which also include all aspects of communication with the public and the various institutional stakeholders.

Coherence and resilience: these two aspects fall within the scope of “comprehensive protection” which UIC has developed over the course of 2014. This concept has been presented on various occasions in the UIC regions of Africa, the Middle-East and Asia-Pacific and which is the central focus of this 10th UIC World Security Congress.

Having dedicated the three previous conferences to technology, human factors, and to strategies and partnerships in the field of security, there only remained to include this overall approach alongside the other approaches aimed at protecting railway systems. This has now been accomplished under the theme of today and tomorrow.

And since I have touched on the progress we have covered so far, I would like to further emphasise the activities developed within the security division and platform. Our operation evolves every two years with the change of chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of the security platform and I would like to thank Messrs. Krishna Chaudhary, Director General of the Railway Protection Force within Indian Railways and Chairman of the security platform since July, and Gerd Neubeck, Chief Security Officer at Deutsche Bahn and Vice-Chairman of the platform since the same date, for their attendance.

Their personal involvement in our work is a guarantee that an overall vision of security will be maintained as one of the fundamental values supporting UIC members and serving passenger, freight and rail system activities.

This vision must be shared between the UIC members and I would therefore like to thank all those who have been involved and who are involved in the platform’s various working groups, which are ongoing forums of exchange and jointly conducted work which is followed up in the long-term, in addition to the annual conferences which also serve as excellent opportunities to meet and to share ideas.

The publication of the working groups’ main results, in the shape of leaflets on:

- Human factors, technology and metal theft (last year)
- A second leaflet on human factors and three leaflets by the group on border crossings and international corridors (this year)

provide users with all the work that has been carried out, enabling everyone to benefit from the information they need for their own strategies. It ensures that the activities conducted are in line with the needs of UIC members and allows them to put forward their proposals for the future.

For the future I would like to place particular emphasis on the research projects that are being conducted either within the railway sector or as part of a multi-sectoral approach. The five research projects currently underway within the security division, together with the Protectrail and Restrail projects – which ended in 2014 – cover a large area, with the characteristics and outcomes being made available periodically, such as the “Focus” brochure published for the congress, as well as the dedicated security space on the UIC website and extranet, designed to be an interactive forum for discussion and joint activities.

The future is also about training and I would like to mention the first Railway Global Executive MBA established on 11 September 2014 by UIC and EM Lyon to prepare managers for the challenges of the years ahead and which is scheduled to begin in February 2015 following the candidate selection process.

But coming back to our congress, by once again wishing this event every success, I would particularly like to thank the two UIC Portuguese members, my colleagues and friends from REFER and CP for wishing to organise this event with us that is being attended by 150 delegates from 22 countries; and I would also like to include Fertagus who helped with the organisation. The economic difficulties in Europe perhaps reduced some of our activities in Southern Europe for a while, and the fact that the congress is being held today in Lisbon is of even greater value, and I am sure that we will soon see joint activities being conducted, particularly in the areas of crisis management and civil protection, where further progress still needs to be made.

If there is one thing that is certain in the field of security, it is that our job will never be complete, and that we will constantly have to step up and define what we want, should and can do for ourselves, by taking the present and future into our own hands. For, as Fernando Pessoa once wrote: “Blessed are those who entrust their lives to no one.”

Thank you for your attention.