



## **Rail investment, a stimulus for the economic recovery and integral to sustainable development**

*The International Union of Railways (UIC) and the European Rail Industry (UNIFE), are present at the exhibition of the International Transport Forum that unfolds on today in Leipzig.*

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(Paris/Brussels, 26.05.09). Elaborating on this years' main theme *Transport for a Global Economy: Challenges & Opportunities in the Downtown* ITF Secretary Jack Short states: *"We hope that the International Transport Forum will find answers to some of the most difficult challenges our sector has ever faced, and to provide some solutions for ways out of the current crisis."* He stresses that, *"there are also opportunities for sustainable change."*

UNIFE and UIC believe that the rail sector is in a unique position to provide a solution to these challenges, where economic growth is stimulated by the most sustainable mode of transport.

As Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, Director General of the International Union of Railways, points out: *"Even though railway development involves heavy investment and long term planning, they always turn to increase in mobility of goods and people, develop employment and business through infrastructure works and new services and prove to be a judicious solution for sustainable development. The recent decisions made in Europe, in America, Middle-East, North Africa and Asia show that railway investment may be boosted by the current crisis and simultaneously a good solution to get out of it"*

UNIFE Director-General Michael Clausecker adds: *"Investments in rail have a lasting positive effect on the economy. As the Spanish example shows, sustained investments in rail infrastructure led to a 2.5% GDP growth over the past 15 years. In addition to stimulating economic growth, investments in rail have a corresponding positive effect on the environment. For example, choosing train over plane from London to Paris leads to a 90% reduction in CO2 emissions."*

If you wish to find out more about the economic and environmental benefits of rail, please come and visit us at the Messe Leipzig on stand 17, level 1 – or visit [www.unife.org](http://www.unife.org) / [www.uic.org](http://www.uic.org)

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UNIFE represents the interests of the European Rail Industry towards the European institutions, international railway associations and other business relations. The European Rail Industry provides competitive railway systems for increased rail traffic and follows the objective of making rail transport the sustainable solution for the challenges of the 21st century mobility. The European Rail Industry consists of trend setting industries in the field of rolling stock, infrastructure, information technology and signalling, provision of part and services. For more information, see [www.unife.org](http://www.unife.org)

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The International Union of Railways (UIC) is the worldwide organisation for promotion of rail transport and cooperation across the world and comprises 200 members on all 5 continents. UIC, as a technical platform, provides its members with technical know-how and expertise (regulations and specifications in order to enhance technical cooperation) and ensures the coherence of the rail system to help meet the challenges of mobility and sustainable development.