

**Message from UIC Chairman,  
President of JSC “Russian Railways”  
Vladimir Yakunin to the participants of  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> UIC Standardization Conference**

Dear ladies and gentlemen,  
dear participants of the Conference!

Today, we can rightly assume that the establishment and the start of the work of the Standardization platform has allowed to attract the attention of UIC members to the essential aspects of railway transport. First of all, we are talking about the requirements for infrastructure and rolling stock.

A landmark event was the decision of the 80<sup>th</sup> General Assembly session (Philadelphia , July 9, 2012) on the creation of the Platform which is constituted of the largest railway companies - members of the UIC. And what is especially important, the development of international railway standards is based on a range of UIC leaflets which have been created by UIC members for years.

We, railway companies – members of UIC, should clearly understand that the International Railway Standards (IRS) formulate requirements for railway systems, define the boundary conditions, and are focused on the definition of functional possibilities and railway transport performance targets. IRS are documents of voluntary application which set out clear requirements for the manufacturers in the interests of producing modern railway equipment and infrastructure elements, as well as provide for harmonized rules and procedures for the railways themselves.

I want to emphasize that UIC has done a lot of work with other international organizations, including the work with OSJD aimed at creating standards for the “1520 cluster”, which we have repeatedly discussed at the meetings of the UIC General Assembly. At the end of April this year crucial decisions were taken on the establishment of a joint working group to develop common IRS based on UIC / OSJD leaflets. Thus, the railway companies of 1520 mm gauge became participants of the common process for the development of IRS.

As UIC Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to the obvious benefits of this work. I am convinced that the management of European and Asian railway companies realizes the need for harmonized, if not uniform, technical standards.

The absence of harmonized standards on the railways is a major obstacle to the development of international transportation business. It is good to know that today the railways are ready to cooperate: it is the only way to successfully withstand the competition of alternative transport modes.

The program of the Conference will allow to systematically examine all the significant areas, including the interaction of international organizations, railway equipment manufacturers and operators, the standards for freight and passenger transport services and, of course, research and development.

In conclusion I will note that the work carried out on the multilateral level on the development of IRS in the field of rail transport is complex and laborious, and it is encouraging to see today the first results of this work. We have overcome a substantial portion of a complex and thorny path of forming a common approach to the establishment of railway standards, regardless of the track width and geographic coverage.

If we can keep the spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation and complete the work started, we will in the near future very probably witness direct transportation between China, the Republic of Korea, India and other Asian countries on the one hand, and the European countries on the other hand. This will help us reach one of our main goals – redistribute cargo flows from the sea, road and air to the railways.

Working together to harmonize standards we create an integrated system of the international railway services market, making a real step to building more efficient delivery chains. Moreover, as a result of this work, we will retain UIC as a modern organization and a main cooperation platform in the field of railway transport.

I wish the Conference successful and fruitful work!

Vladimir Yakunin  
UIC Chairman,  
President of JSC “Russian Railways”