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## **UIC demonstrates its know-how and expertise at the 6th edition of the Transport Research Arena (TRA) taking place from 18 – 21 April 2016 in Warsaw**

### ***Moving Forward: Innovative Solutions for Tomorrow's Mobility!***

(Warsaw, 20 April 2016) The 6th Transport Research Arena (TRA) 2016, the only European transport research conference organised by the European Commission covering all surface modes and their interaction, is taking place this week from 18 – 21 April 2016 at the PGE Narodowy Stadium in Warsaw, Poland.

This 2016 edition, following the 2012 edition in Athens and the 2014 edition in Paris, is the opportunity for the International Union of Railways (UIC) and its members to show their continuous investment in research and innovation as part of the development of the future rail system.

Attended by around 2100 participants involved in research and innovation in transport across Europe, TRA is organised by the European Commission, the Conference of European Road Directors, and the four European Transport Technology Platforms including ERRAC – the European Rail Research Council – and is hosted by the Polish Ministry of Infrastructure and Development and the Road and Bridge Research Institute (IBDiM) of Poland.

The conference opened on 18 April with introductory presentations by the following speakers:

**Kazimierz Smolinski**, First Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Construction, Poland

**Mateusz Morawiecki**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Development, Poland

**Carlos Moedas**, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation

**Violeta Bulc**, European Commissioner for Transport

**Jerzy Buzek**, Member of European Parliament, Chair of the ITRE Committee

**Greg Nadeau**, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), USA

**Jean-Luc di Paola Galloni**, Co-Chairman, European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC), Corporate Vice-President, Valeo Group

**Leszek Rafalski**, Road and Bridge Research Institute of Warsaw, Poland

**Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director General**, spoke during the third plenary session on the morning of 20 April dedicated to **Energy and Transport: How to meet Decarbonisation, Fuel Security & Efficiency Targets of the Future**. The session focused on the topics of energy efficiency, alternative fuels, future optimal energy sources and progress in electrification and other clean vehicles.

According to Mr Loubinoux: *“Research is regarded as a core and fundamental task of UIC, supporting the efforts of its members in their need to resolve operational questions and problems –*

- Through exchange of information based on the results of research projects collected from our members’ efforts*
- And from leading rail research institutes and academia, benchmarking and actively carrying out studies and research, development and innovation...*

*UIC plays a crucial role as driver, disseminator and knowledge manager, as well as a platform for discussion and exchange of experience and best practice... UIC takes a holistic approach, considering the railway system as a whole, and is already preparing the various possible solutions to achieve the future digital railway.”*

TRA is also the opportunity for UIC, via its own exhibition stand, to promote the technical expertise that can be brought to the development of research and innovation through the European framework programmes. A number of UIC technical specialists will be giving presentations on the stands of UIC and the European Commission, notably **Laurent Schmitt**, speaking about the Capacity4Rail project, **Grigore Havarneanu**, speaking about security projects such as Graffolution and Bodega, and **Jonathan Paragreen**, speaking about NeTIRail, in which UIC is leading the dissemination.

Highlights of the conference include:

Environment – Decarbonisation; Sustainability and Energy Efficiency; Vehicles and Vessels Technologies; Design and Production; Urban and Long-Distance People Mobility – Systems and Services; Urban and Long-Distance Freight Transport and Logistics; Safe, Secure and Resilient Transport Systems; Transport Infrastructure; Human Factors, Socio-Economics and Foresights; Automation and Connectivity; Enabling for Innovation Implementation.

TRA is an excellent opportunity for all stakeholders in the field of transport, and especially for those dealing with research and innovation, to network and discover new ideas which could pave the way towards tomorrow’s transport system.

UIC will continue to relay the message from all its members about the fundamental role for railways in sustainable mobility for future generations and the need to invest in research and innovation both on a European and global level.

## CONTACTS

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More information about the European projects here: [http://uic.org/com/IMG/pdf/focus\\_europe-2016.pdf](http://uic.org/com/IMG/pdf/focus_europe-2016.pdf)