



First cooperation contract signed between UIC and the European Railway Agency (ERA)

UIC, recognised as an independent expert, will assist ERA in drawing up the list of approved composite 'K' brake blocks, as part of efforts to reduce wagon noise. It will also be in charge of creating and updating the technical specifications for the assessment by 'Notified Bodies' of K brake blocks and the wagons fitted with these blocks.

(Paris, 24 November 2008). On Friday 21 November in Paris, the European Railway Agency (ERA), represented by *Messrs Marcel Verslype*, Executive Director, and *Jean-Charles Pichant*, Head of the Interoperability Unit, signed an initial contract with the International Union of Railways (UIC), represented by *Mrs Béatrice Dunogué-Gaffié*, Provisional Administrator, and *Luc Aliadière*, Chief Executive.

Under the terms of this first contract signed with ERA, UIC, recognised as an independent expert, will be responsible for:

- *creating, validating and updating the list of fully approved composite 'K' brake blocks (brake blocks that will contribute to wagon noise reduction in international traffic),*
- *creating, validating and updating the technical specifications that will allow 'Notified Bodies' to assess composite 'K' brake blocks for wagons and the wagons fitted with these K brake blocks*

Above and beyond the contract itself, this is the foundation of a long-term partnership that will, inter alia, serve the interests of the railway sector through the results of UIC's technical work (these results, recorded in 'UIC leaflets', represent a key component of technical work in the European railway sector).

Within such a partnership, 'UIC leaflets' will be used in particular to complete any points left open in the Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSI). This partnership will also enable the results of technical work carried out within UIC to be incorporated dynamically into European legislation relating to the railway sector.

Through its expert input vis-à-vis the European Railway Agency, UIC aims to strengthen its contribution to the development of a competitive and interoperable railway transport system throughout Europe, which responds to market demands and to the aims of sustainable development.

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