



The UIC General Assembly unanimously approves the proposed principles for the modification of the statutes and the definition of the association's future governance rules.

Mr Yoshio Ishida, Vice-Chairman of East Japan Railways (EJR), is unanimously elected as UIC Chairman for 2009-2010. He will succeed Mr K.C Jena on 1 April.

(Paris, 11 December 2008). "The Executive Board and subsequently General Assembly of the International Union of Railways (UIC) met on Friday 5 December at UIC Headquarters in Paris. Both meetings were chaired by *Mr K.C. Jena*, Chairman of the Board of Indian Railways (IR) and featured strong personal involvement from the Chairmen and Chief Executives of UIC member railways, including *Messrs Guillaume Pepy*, Chairman of SNCF and UIC Vice-Chairman, *Hartmut Mehdorn*, Chairman of Deutsche Bahn (DB) and UIC Europe Chairman, *Yoshio Ishida*, Vice Chairman of East Japan Railways (EJR), *Siyabonga Gama*, Chief Executive of Transnet, South Africa and UIC Africa Chairman, *Süleyman Karaman*, Chairman and Chief Executive of TCDD and UIC Middle-East Chairman, *Vladimir Yakunin*, Chairman of Russian Railways JSC RZD, *Abdelaziz Chaabane*, Chairman and Chief Executive of SNCFT and new UAC Chairman (Union of African Railways). UIC Headquarters was represented by the Provisional Administrator *Mrs Béatrice Dunogué-Gaffié*, Chief Executive *Luc Aliadière* and Deputy Chief Executive *Vipin Sharma*.

The meetings on 5 December were of major significance for the future of UIC because members were asked to adopt the founding principles for the governance and operations of UIC in future.

At the previous General Assembly in Seoul in May 2008, members had decided to create a statutes working group, chaired and led by *Mrs Béatrice Dunogué-Gaffié* and comprising two representatives appointed by each Chairman of the 6 UIC regions (Europe, Asia, Middle-East, Africa, North America and Latin America). The aim of this group was to evaluate the situation in the light of the conclusions of the audits conducted by the Provisional Administrator, and propose to members the necessary modifications to the statutes in order to remove the inconsistencies of previous versions, and to define an operational, effective management structure for the association.

The result of this work was presented to the Executive Board by the Provisional Administrator on 5 December, and members were asked to adopt a position on 4 main strategic principles:

- The decision making process: calculation of votes and voting rights in the Executive Board and General Assembly (with a view to avoiding conflicts between the competences of these two bodies),
- the powers of the Executive Board,

- UIC management,
- procedures for appointing the highest UIC executives.

The members of the Executive Board each gave their position on these principles, the intention being to adopt a shared proposal which could then be submitted to the approval of the General Assembly. Following this intensive debate, the Executive Board adopted the following principles:

- adoption of a **common approach on the decision making process (voting rights)**. The current principle, whereby the number of votes members have at the General Assembly is calculated on the basis of the membership fees (based on the characteristics and business of the company), is retained and extended to the Executive Board. Amendments will nonetheless be made to introduce an element of universal suffrage in voting in addition to the generally-applicable proportional voting system, in order to rally the whole railway community behind certain activities in the organisation's existence.
- within the Executive Board, members will have a number of votes corresponding to the total votes of the active members from the region they represent. The Executive Board will be able to take certain decisions in a range of areas which remain to be determined.
- **UIC will remain a single entity**, with a **General Manager of Services** who will be solely accountable for the management of UIC. In view of the independence of the regions, Executive(s) will be in charge of the Management at the head of each region:
 - a Director Europe (appointed by the European Regional Assembly and ratified by the GA)
 - one or more Directors (Non-Europe) for the other UIC Regions (ratification by the GA also).

Following an intensive debate involving the heads of the main railway companies, **the General Assembly approved unanimously the option presented by the Executive Board**, thus giving Ms *Béatrice Dunogué-Gaffié* a clear mandate to finalise the draft of the new UIC statutes. The Statutes Revision Group is tasked with finalising its draft for the modified statutes based on the principles approved, as well as with proposing the amendments concerning the introduction of an element of universal suffrage. These proposals are to be communicated to the General Assembly for approval in late March 2009.

In order for this strategic work recasting the governance rules to be finalised, the General Assembly **decided unanimously to extend the mandates** of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive, which were due to expire at the end of December 2008, until 31 March 2009. In addition, members unanimously approved the continuation of the mandate of the Provisional Administrator. The members of the Executive Board will also be maintained with their current mandates until the above date.

The General Assembly then handled the issue of the **UIC Chairmanship for 2009-2010**. *Mr Yoshio Ishida*, Vice Chairman of East Japan Railways (EJR) was unanimously elected as the successor to *Mr K.C Jena* as UIC Chairman from 1 April 2009. Applauded following his election, *Mr Yoshio Ishida* has been involved in international railway cooperation for many years, in particular via his participation in the UIC World Executive Council and subsequently the Executive Board, and through his chairmanship of the UIC International Railway Research Board (IRRB).

The General Assembly also approved:

- the 2007 accounts,
- the financial situation for the years 2008 (exceptional extension of the financial year until 31 March 2009) and 2009.”

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