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12th UIC World Security Congress 2016 on the general theme “security of stations” held in Helsinki from 23 – 25 November:

Above and beyond moral and political considerations, Security needs to be understood from a business perspective, as a valuable asset

(Helsinki, 24 November 2016) The 12th edition of the UIC Global Rail Security Congress is jointly organised by the Security Directorate of the Finnish Transport Agency (FTA) together with the International Union of Railways (UIC), the Worldwide Railway Association.

The conference is currently being held at the Hilton Strand, Helsinki, on 23 – 25 November 2016 and is attended by around 100 participants from 25 countries. Among the participants, police, security agencies of Finland and Railway representatives of the UIC Security Platform (Chaired by Prof. Gerd Neubeck, DB AG, Germany).

Every year, UIC organises a World Security Congress; this year, the Congress is being organised for the first time in Finland and focuses on “Security of Stations”, with various presentations on the topics below:

- **Security by design**
- **Social, legal and ethical aspects**
- **Human factors / intermodality / stations in the city**
- **UIC Station Managers Global Group**

Mr. Antti VEHVILAÏNEN, CEO of the Finnish Transport Agency, President of European Rail Infrastructure Managers association (EIM), and Mr. Jean-Pierre LOUBINOX, Director General of UIC, welcomed the participants of this 12th UIC World Security Congress .

Mr. Antti VEHVILAÏNEN underlined the aspect of security for the FTA which is in charge of the construction and maintenance of the various Finnish infrastructures, Road, Rail, and Maritime.

Mr. Jean-Pierre LOUBINOX recalled the importance of the main stations:

“As we all know, stations are not only transit hubs - they are centres of urban life, with the biggest stations often having significant numbers of people passing through. They are the public faces of cities, and the first and last thing travellers see on arriving or departing. They are the beginning and the end of a journey, and the impression they give forms a large part of what travellers remember of their trip - it may even influence their choice of transport mode next time. That means that we need not only to ensure security in objective terms, in collaboration with our institutional partners, but also to convey a feeling of security vis-à-vis our customers and staff. A welcoming, secure atmosphere, coupled with technical performance, makes rail travel an attractive option.”

He concluded with the need for heads of security to work very closely in partnership with for the heads of the business areas (Freight, Passengers, Rail system).

Security is a UIC fundamental value, transversal, supporting the various technical and commercial activities.

Then, Mr. Gerd NEUBECK, German Railways DB AG, Germany, Chairman of the UIC Security platform, drew attention to the various security events since the last UIC Global Rail Security Congress held in New Delhi, India, in December 2015.

The security policy has to combine the prevention of the acts and appropriate reaction during and after an attack.

At European level, he highlighted the role of European Commission and the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG Move).

To conclude this opening session, the UIC Security Division presented the main results of the 2016 global security additional programme decided by the UIC General Assembly in December 2015 and which will be submitted at the next General Assembly in St Petersburg, to be held on 1 December 2016.

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