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The International Union of Railways (UIC) and the International Railway Sports Association (USIC) to launch several charitable sports events in 2017

These events illustrate the value of Solidarity of the Worldwide Railway association

(Paris, 7 December 2016) In the framework of the General Assembly of the International Union of Railways (UIC) held in Saint-Petersburg on 1 December, Jean-Pierre LOUBINOUX, UIC Director General and Dominique PAGET, Chairman of the International Railway Sports Association (USIC) announced that an activity of a charitable nature would be conducted jointly in 2017 between UIC and USIC, in order to better reflect the values of solidarity that the railway community wishes to develop through sporting events.

This announcement follows the agreement that was signed at the UIC General Assembly in Rome between UIC and USIC. UIC would like to emphasise value of Solidarity to be used as a backbone and landmark to develop other any possible actions in common, as this value of Solidarity resonates particularly strongly in the sporting values held by USIC and therefore through this MoU signed in common.

These challenges, that will be also opened to other participants, partners and sponsors, should concern bowling in Bulgaria and badminton in Switzerland.

Sponsors will be invited to make donations in aid of a humanitarian cause.

Mr Jean-Pierre LOUBINOUX also suggested organising a World Chess Challenge in December 2017 at UIC Headquarters.

He said: *"The UIC values of Unity, Universality and Solidarity can combine well with the values of USIC through open sporting events. Railway men and women will convey this spirit in a world in which railway links between countries and cultures can represent a strong symbolic link of international development of peace. This will be our message through our collaboration."*

Notes to Editors:

The International Railway Sports Association (USIC), a transnational, politically independent, non-denominational, non-profit making and charitable organisation, encourages the practice of amateur sport among railway employees in a spirit of comradeship and in accordance with the Olympic ideal and to develop among them a spirit of loyalty, tolerance and democracy.

USIC is the international umbrella organisation of its national railway member associations. It is not affiliated to any other organisation. It may join other sports associations, if this is deemed to be beneficial to USIC.

USIC organises international rail sport events which shall take place in accordance with the provisions laid down in the relevant sporting rules. USIC expressly supports humane sporting activities free from manipulation and drugs and recognises national and international anti-doping rules, in particular the World Anti Doping Code (WADA).

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