

First Steering Board of the new UIC Rail System Forum

Ensuring consistency across the whole railway system on an international scale

(Paris, 5 March 2010). The first Steering Board of the *UIC Rail System Forum*, established following the UIC General Assembly in December 2009, was held on 3 March at UIC. The Steering Board was opened by *Jean-Pierre Loubinoux*, UIC Director General, and chaired by *Joachim Mayer*, Vice-Chairman, together with *Emilio Maestrini*, director of the new UIC Railway System Department.

The new UIC forum has a pivotal role to play in ensuring consistency across the whole railway system on an international scale and links the various interfaces between infrastructure and rolling stock. It encompasses several sectors including: Track, Vehicle Dynamics, Operations, Command Control and Signalling, Energy Management, Rolling Stock, Infrastructure Assessment and Research.

Jean-Pierre Loubinoux underlined that *"In a fragmenting rail sector, there is a crucial need for an understanding of the railways as a system in all areas: from safety to maintenance, security to performance, dynamics to logistics, traction to assets etc., as set out in the Rail System Forum Strategy. He also stressed that UIC is a technical platform working in the interests of all its members and also at the request of CER and EIM through the Coordination Technical Group (CTG) for European political priorities"* and welcomed the participation of *Libor Lochman*, Deputy Executive Director (CER) and *Michael Robson*, Secretary General (EIM).

At the Steering Board a first list of TecRecs (Technical Recommendations) was handed over, following the MoU signed between UNIFE and UIC in December 2009 (cf. joint press release from 11 December).

Two TecRecs, one on the European Drivers Cap and the second on Energy Metering are ready for publication. The Steering Board presented the drafts on the Strategy, Budget and Internal Rules that will be submitted at the UIC Statutory meetings for approval.

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Note to the editor

The International Union of Railways (UIC) is the global trade association representing the railway sector. Its mission is to promote the development of rail transport in all regions of the world and to organize cooperation between railway companies on an international level. It currently groups 200 members on 5 continents.

UIC is a platform for technical cooperation and exchange in all sectors relevant to railways. The technical expertise of UIC, based on the contributions and experience of its members, is a global reference. More specifically, UIC provides its members with standards and technical regulations, recommendations and best practices for all areas of railway operations. Today, one of its main tasks is to help the railways successfully meet the challenges of mobility and sustainable development.