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Official launch of the UIC-USIC-Médecins du Monde charity campaign: when actors from the Railway, Sport and Health worlds join their forces to support a solidarity action

(Paris, 9 May 2017) The International Union of Railways UIC and the International Railway Sports Association USIC share a common value: solidarity.

Following the agreement that was signed at the UIC General Assembly in Rome in July 2016 between UIC and USIC, a charity action will be conducted jointly this year between UIC and USIC, in order to better reflect the values of solidarity that the railway community wishes to develop through sporting events.

During 2017, both organisations will be pooling their strengths to organise various sports challenges across Europe (Bulgaria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, and France). All the money collected during the USIC challenges will go directly to Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World).

On the occasion of the official launch of this campaign in Paris on 9 May 2017 at UIC Headquarters, UIC Director General Mr. Jean-Pierre Loubinoux said: *“On behalf of UIC, I am happy and moved that our values, shared by all our members, from distant countries, different cultures and contrasted situations, can be found in the desire to be contributors to the mobility of ideas and feelings in this generous cause.”*

USIC Chairman Mr Dominique Paget said:

“USIC is particularly pleased to take part in this campaign, and is delighted that an action such as this can link the three organisations around common values such as solidarity.

This is an integral part of the spirit of international sports-minded railway employees who are aware of the issues in the world around them.”

Médecins du Monde Executive Director Joël Weiler said:

“At Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World), we very much appreciate this joint initiative from UIC and USIC. We are deeply grateful for the international mobilisation of both organisations and of all the people that feel concerned by our cause. This gives us hope, as we see that the values of solidarity and tolerance are shared and passed on.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

The International Railway Sports Union (USIC) is an international, politically-neutral, non-profit organisation. USIC encourages the practice of sport at amateur level amongst railway employees in an atmosphere of camaraderie, in line with the Olympian ideal, and strives to foster a spirit of loyalty, tolerance and democracy. USIC is also the international umbrella body for national railway sporting associations.

USIC organises international railway sporting events, which take place in accordance with the provisions of the relevant sporting rules and laws. USIC actively supports fair, drug-free sport, and recognises national and international anti-doping rules, specifically the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA).

The International Union of Railways (UIC) brings together 200 Members from five continents. Though UIC's founding remit was to harmonise operating conditions amongst railways at international level, its scope of action has progressively broadened and currently focuses on promoting railways as the most sustainable mode of transport. UIC aims to further international cooperation between its Members, helping to build a joined-up rail system through technical solutions which are harmonised at global level.

UIC supports its Members' efforts to boost the efficiency, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of rail transport for the benefit of rail customers and society as a whole.

The values guiding UIC in its work are "Unity, Universality, and Solidarity".

Médecins du Monde: Working in France and 81 countries worldwide, Doctors of the World - Médecins du Monde is an independent international movement of campaigning activists who provide care, bear witness and support social change. Through our 388 innovative medical programmes and evidence-based advocacy initiatives, we enable excluded individuals and their communities to access health and fight for universal access to healthcare.

Founded in 1980, the organisation has continued to increase its fields of intervention, adopt more complex ways of taking action and reaffirm its campaigning and independent stance.

For further information please watch these films:

UIC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqxBTS1eN3A>

USIC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxEL2AkOteY&t=698s>

Médecins du Monde: <https://youtu.be/mObDGkJnzTg>

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