



Address to the XXVII conference of OSJD General Directors

By Jean-Pierre LOUBINOX, UIC General Director

Odessa, 25 April 2013



Ladies & Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues & Dear Friends,

It is a real pleasure for me to be in Odessa for the first time! But it is not the first time that I have taken part in this Conference of OSJD General Directors.

As a matter of fact, the cooperative relationship between OSJD and UIC is a long story and dates back to 1995.

I had the personal pleasure to revitalise this cooperation with Mr Szozda in 2012 and this was followed by the review of our possible topics of cooperation in March 2013. And indeed the fields of collaboration are numerous and have increased particularly since 2010.

I will only mention, not to get too technical, the facilitation of border crossings, reservation systems, some joint leaflets, the common approach on TAF and TAP, freight facilitation and interoperability – not only for border crossings – but also studies on corridors and administration to make the flow of traffic and the mobility of goods easier between East and West.

This emergence of new intercontinental corridors is probably one of the main issues identified in our future domains of cooperation. And the fact that the new UIC Chairman is Mr Vladimir Yakunin, Chairman of RZD, is a strong symbol for boosting this vision of railway corridors linking East and West to facilitate the mobility and goods and people between these two parts of the world.

This will, very pragmatically, imply a participation of OSJD members in the UIC Global Expert Groups on international corridors, a common approach on standardisation and the review of some common leaflets which could migrate towards International Rail Standards, common studies on stations, safety & security, a shared vision that training of a new generation of young railway men and women

is essential for the development of our railway system in the next century – and possibly also cooperation between OSJD and UIC on a common GIS system and common databases. This is not an exhaustive list; I am sure that there are other strategic, technical or administrative issues that could be studied and developed together.

What is most important, and one of the reasons why I have the pleasure of being here in Odessa, is this strengthening of our cooperation and that we together incarnate the strong values that UIC is defending for the rail system all over the world: unity, universality and solidarity.

Thank you very much for today's invitation, thank you very much for the work done in the recent years and more specifically for the work to be done in the years to come.