



News Release

United Arab Emirates National Transport Authority signs **Memorandum of Understanding** with UNIFE and UIC

Berlin, 21 September 2010 – **The United Arab Emirates (UAE), the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the association of the European Rail Industry (UNIFE) signed today a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster collaboration and exchange of information in the railway field.**

The agreement was signed by His Excellency Dr. Nasser Saif Al Mansoori, Director General of the National Transport Authority, on behalf of the UAE, Mr Michael Clausecker, Director General of UNIFE, and Mr Loubinoux, Director General of UIC. The signature took place at the occasion of Innotrans, the world's largest fair for rail transport technologies.

Commenting on the signature, HE Dr. Nasser Saif Al Mansoori stated that "This MoU is an important step in the development of our National railways. Europe has a long-standing history of railway capability and such agreement will be extremely helpful for our emerging industry. Our objective is to establish collaborative working relationship with European Railway Authorities and Railway Industry Leaders and aim to bring most advanced and efficient rail technology to the UAE".

Michael Clausecker, UNIFE Director General, commented "As compared to the existing alternatives, the European rail standardisation system may bring considerable benefits to countries building new railway networks. We hope that this MoU will be the beginning of a long history of cooperation with the UAE".

On behalf of the UIC, Director General Jean-Pierre Loubinoux highlighted the significance of this step "the UIC views the signing of this MoU with the UAE as an important part of the UIC overall objectives of spreading good industry practice and implement tried-and-tested international Standards globally. The UIC is a recognised world leader in the development of Railway Industry Standards and codes of practice. With our role as a supporter of the development of key infrastructure projects in all of the UIC's 6 regions, the signing of this MoU will act as a very solid bridge between the European and Middle Eastern regions including the Arabian Gulf".

The MoU foresees in particular some exchange of information on railway standards; cooperations on issues of general interest such as rail regulations, safety, R&D; and the organisation of regular seminars. It is signed for a period of two years.

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(NTA)

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About the NTA

The National Transport Authority is the UAE Federal Government body that is responsible for the Land and Maritime transport sectors in the UAE. The NTA was established by Federal Government Law in 2006 and it is the competent authority that undertakes transport activities as entrusted to it by the UAE Cabinet.

The NTA core business activities include Creation of Transportation Policies, Prepare Transportation legislations and Acts, Produce Regulations for Roads, Rail and Maritime, enforcement of Transport Regulations including licensing, monitor transport policy instruments and their effectiveness, provide regular reports to Federal Government Cabinet, Benchmark transport best practice & International Standards, development of railway national standards, interoperability standards and their harmonisation across the UAE and cross border with other GCC countries, develop National transportation plans and Represent the UAE Government locally, regionally and internationally.

[website: www.nta.gov.ae](http://www.nta.gov.ae)

About UNIFE

UNIFE represents the European Rail Industry in Brussels since 1992. The Association gathers 73 of Europe's leading large and medium-sized rail supply companies active in the design, manufacture, maintenance and refurbishment of rail transport systems, subsystems and related equipment. A further one thousand suppliers of railway equipment partake in UNIFE activities through 15 national rail industry associations. UNIFE members have an 80% market share in Europe and supply more than 50% of the worldwide production of rail equipment and services.

UNIFE represents its members' interests at the level of both European and international institutions. On the technical side, UNIFE works on the setting of interoperability standards and coordinates EU-funded research projects that aim at the technical harmonisation of railway systems. The association is one of the supporting bodies of the European Railway Agency. ***UNIFE. Promote rail market growth for sustainable mobility.***

www.unife.org

About UIC

The International Union of Railways (UIC) is the international professional association representing the rail sector. UIC currently counts 200 members across five continents. Its mandate is to promote the growth of rail transport across the world and to encourage and organise international cooperation between its members. UIC's technical departments draw their lead from the strategies defined by the members of its specialist forums and platforms, and steer or coordinate a total of circa 200 projects in the field of international cooperation, covering all aspects of rail activities: rail system technology, passenger and freight transport, research, safety and security, sustainable development and the development of skills and expertise.

A significant share of UIC's work consists of strengthening the coherence of the rail system as a whole and its international interoperability, as well as boosting the competitiveness of both passenger and freight transport services. The aim is to enable rail transport to meet current challenges of mobility and sustainable development as effectively as possible. You can find more information on:

www.uic.org