



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS

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World Bank Transport Forum 2011: UIC gives its railway input to the Forum dedicated to 50 years of Innovation in Transport

(Washington/Paris, 1 April 2011) On 29th March 2011 UIC was given the opportunity to provide its railway input to the Transport Forum organised by the World Bank on 28-31 March in Washington D.C. on the theme *"50 years of Innovation in Transport: Achievements and Future Challenges"*.

"Rail", said Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, Director-General of UIC, the worldwide association of railways, "is becoming an increasingly global concern. Close to 50 billion euros were spent in 2009-2010 on European railways, with new investments emerging elsewhere in the world. In terms of global infrastructure the rail sector represents an average of 1 million km and 15,000 km on high speed rail lines".

Mr. Loubinoux went on to speak of the new challenges of mobility. Something must be done to broach this new challenge of mobility in the years to come, particularly with regards to world demographics, as by 2050 the world population will be close to 10 billion and the total freight volumes are set to double. Mobility will continue to create environmental challenges, he said. "Given that transport counts for over 50 % of the world's fuel consumption and that within transport rail accounts for only 2 % of CO2 emissions, it is evident that rail, as a low-carbon mode, has a major role to play in sustainable development(...). As rail has excellent records in nearly all areas, notably safety, the rail sector does not intend to stop there and has developed strategic ambitions. The target for 2020 is to reduce CO2 emissions by 30 % and to use clean electricity as much as possible. By 2050 the aim is to have carbon-free operations"

"UIC's mission", he said, "is to promote the development of the railways at world level to meet the challenges of mobility and sustainable development for the benefit of society at large (...). UIC's desire to do better for the rail sector is reflected in the Declaration of Sustainable Mobility and Transport, already signed by more than 45 members around the world, that will be presented at a major event at the United Nations in New York on 11 May".

Mr. Loubinoux concluded by saying that rail, as a low-carbon mode, has an important social and economic role to play. A sustainable transport system, he added, must combine the strengths of all modes into one integrated system and rail is capable of being the backbone of such a sustainable future transport system.

Two UIC Senior Advisors also participated in this World Bank Forum: *Mr. George Barbu* took part in the panel discussion "What must the Bank be doing more of or better, in order to reap the benefits of emerging ITS / ICT opportunities?", while *Mr. Teodor Gradinariu* gave a presentation on Rail Asset Management.

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