

LETTER TO UIC MEMBERS
GIANLUIGI CASTELLI
CHAIRMAN FS ITALIANE AND UIC

Dear Mr. Loubinoux, dear members of the General Assembly of the International Union of Railways.

First of all, I wish to pay tribute, both on my personal capacity and on behalf of the international railway community, to the significant and constructive role that Mr Renato Mazzoncini has played since December 2015. The UIC has benefited from the vision and the push of my predecessor. During his chairmanship he worked hard to boost the cooperation across our sector worldwide. It's my duty to continue the plans that have been agreed upon recently in the last General Assembly in Madrid.

The vision, the mission and the duties of such an important organisation as the UIC are clear. Our goals are:

- improve the safety of the railway sector;
- foster innovation;
- create an open environment for experimenting new technologies for the benefit of all members;
- work together with all the stakeholders to contribute to the standardization of systems for interoperability and cost reduction.

So the following are just some of the items in our agenda:

- We will work hard to guarantee the development of public integrated mobility systems involving all kinds of public transportation.
- We will continue to support the development of International Corridors, such as the TransEuropean Corridors and the One Belt, One Road.
- Together with the banking institutions through MoUs, we will continue to develop financing schemes to make ambitious, large projects financially sustainable.

- Modern railways systems are by far the most environmentally friendly type of mobility, both for people and goods: our continuous action will orientate governments and policy makers worldwide ensuring to our industry the necessary capitals for development.
- Regulatory bodies, both international and local, need to support this vision through the establishment of a far-seeing set of regulations and laws.

All the pieces of the puzzle that will allow us to make a giant leap forward are here: we have to put the pieces together. That's why I think we have to be aware that the disruption stage of the digital transformation has ended and we are moving into what I like to call the digital-by-nature era.

Let me conclude my letter with a few convictions.

The curve of digital technology costs is decreasing exponentially (3D printing, industrial robots, BCI, full medical scan, genome sequencing, ...) following Moore's law or even faster than it. However, the costs of the core technologies of our industry is still a major limit for our industry. Through UIC by increasingly adopting standard components and the work of the digital platform, even the rail system and technologies will benefit from this accelerated cost reduction throughout its own innovation chains: control systems, autonomous vehicle operations, intelligent logistics systems, etc.

The UIC is the perfect place to make all this happen through an open collaboration among all the stakeholders and the broadening community of partners involved.

Thank you very much again for your trust and I look forward to meeting you to our next General Assembly in December.

Sincerely,

Gianluigi Castelli