UIC
THE WORLDWIDE RAILWAY ORGANISATION
1. UIC AT A GLANCE

UIC MEMBERS ALL AROUND THE WORLD
1 Million kilometres of lines

3,000 Billion passenger kilometres

10,000 Billion tonne kilometres of freight

1 Million kilometres of lines

7 Million rail personnel

100 Cooperation with over 100 institutions

700 UIC Leaflets - New IRSs (International Railway Solution)

85 Congresses, conferences, workshops per year
The idea of creating an international organisation, bringing together railway companies, was developed just after the First World War, in the wake of the international conference of Portoroz, in Italy in November 1921, followed by the international conference of Genoa in May 1922. Government representatives favoured the creation of a permanent rail organisation focusing on international traffic for the standardisation and improvement of conditions of railway construction and operations.

The international conference founding UIC was held in Paris on 17 October 1922. UIC’s original principal task was already defined: standardising and improving conditions for building and operating railways for international traffic. Initially, UIC brought together 51 Members from 29 countries including Japan and China, which were soon joined by the railways from the USSR, the Middle East and North Africa.

Today, practically one century after its creation, UIC currently counts 200 Members from 100 countries, across 5 continents. Its mandate is to promote the growth of rail transport worldwide and to encourage and organise international cooperation between its Members. Furthermore, UIC develops close cooperation links with more than 100 international organisations and professional associations and has had consultative status to the United Nations since 1949.

A significant share of UIC’s tasks 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 so that rail becomes the land transport mode of choice for the customer. The aim is to enable rail transport to match challenges of mobility and sustainable development as effectively as possible.

Since its creation UIC has never stopped working on harmonisation and standardisation issues for railway interoperability and efficiency.

1921
International Conference in Portoroz

1922
Paris Conference, birth of UIC
2. OUR HISTORY
Technical harmonisation of the railway system has been a core objective of UIC, the International Union of Railways, acting as an SSO (Standards Setting Organisation), since its creation in 1922. Its Members – the operators of the world’s railways – have over the years developed the “UIC code” comprising “UIC Leaflets”, which define the common rules to ensure safety and efficiency in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the railway system. A significant number of these deliverables are used outside the railway operating community.

They are the outcome of independent work conducted by the railway operators in order to harmonise the railways in an efficient and realistic way. Though the IRSs are progressively replacing the UIC Leaflets, they have kept their universal and global objective but also incorporate regional variations. They help the railway companies in their aim to serve society and the economy. For every relevant subject, volunteer experts develop guidelines for good practice. They produce recommendations which then serve as professional standards, and which are used to ensure harmonisation and economic efficiency in the railways.

UIC’s philosophy consists in embodying the values of unity, solidarity and universality. UIC has to serve as a platform for sharing information, best practice, experience, ideas and technical solutions. UIC seeks to open up its databases in order to keep it up-to-date, to improve it and ensure it remains useful to the sector. UIC seeks to encourage interoperability by fostering links between Members and experts and recognising the needs of the customer.

In creating the Digital Platform, this path opens the way for promising developments, as has been the case with the concept of “fundamental values” – in other words the cross-functional issues that affect the sector as a whole, and which will form the future basis for growth in rail transport.

UIC plays a pivotal role in the development of the future railway system through a programme of innovation organised around four key areas:

- Understanding how the rail system operates, identifying the trends on an operational and commercial level.
- Developing solutions to stimulate these trends (studies, projects, demonstrators) and making the system more efficient.
- Sharing solutions in a user-friendly way (IRS, seminars, events) to encourage cost reductions in the system, making rail more attractive to the customer.
- Monitoring the implementation in the field and in real time to better understand the adjustments of successful trends... and the cycle begins again...

**BCC Creation to ease financial exchange between railway companies**

**THE INNOVATION CYCLE**

- **DATA CAPTURE**
- **OPERATIONAL FEEDBACK**
- **TRENDS DATA ANALYSIS**
- **DEVELOP IDEAS**
- **CONDUCT PROJECTS**
- **DELIVER SOLUTIONS**
- **EDUCATE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE**
- **MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION**

**OUR VISION & MISSION**

**A VISION FOR AN INNOVATING SECTOR**

**VISION**

The International Union of Railways is the worldwide organisation tasked with promoting rail transport and developing the railway system to support the strategy of its Members (which include rail operators, infrastructure managers and railway service providers).

**MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION**

1925

BCC Creation to ease financial exchange between railway companies
A STRATEGIC VISION IN EVERY REGION OF THE WORLD

All these Visions aim to develop rail transport with the objective of meeting challenges of mobility and sustainable development.
UIC’S MISSION

- Promote rail transport at world level with the objectives of optimally meeting current and future challenges of mobility and sustainable development.
- Develop and facilitate all forms of international cooperation among Members, facilitate the sharing of best practices.
- Promote interoperability, develop and publish solutions to system issues (IRS) for railways (including common solutions with other transport modes).
- Support Members in their efforts to develop new business and new areas of activity.
- Propose new ways to improve technical and environmental performance of rail transport, improve competitiveness and cost reduction.

SYNERGIES BETWEEN UIC AND ITS PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

UIC maintains and develops close cooperation links with over 100 leading international organisations or specialised institutions.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS
- UN, UNECE, ESCAP, UNFCCC, UN Environment, UN DESA
- OECD, ITF
- EU institutions, European Union Agency for Railways
- OSJD
- OTIF
- ECO
- AU
- BSEC
- ANTT
- EEC
- CIT

TRANSPORT SECTOR ASSOCIATIONS
- UIC
- IRU
- IATA
- UFTAA
- FIATA
- UIRR
- UIP
- ERFA
- CER
- EIM
- APTA
- ALAF

RAILWAY INDUSTRY AND CONTRACTORS
- UNIFE, FIEC, EFRTC, SSZD

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL STANDARDISATION BODIES
- ISO, CEN/CENELEC, CRT CIS, ETSI, IEC...

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS FOR TOURISM, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND CULTURE
- FISSAIC, USIC, EIA

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
- World Bank, EIB, ADB

1938
UIC counts 50 Members and 197 Leaflets

1949
the UN grants UIC consultative status
SYNERGIES DEVELOPED BY UIC WITH LEADING INSTITUTIONS

*LEGEND*
- ADB: Asian Development Bank
- ALAF: Latin American Association of Railroads
- APTA: American Public Transportation Association
- ANTT: Agencia Nacional de Transportes Terrestres
- AU: African Union Commission
- BSEC: Black Sea Economic Cooperation
- CEN: European Committee for Standardization
- CENELEC: European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
- CER: Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies
- CIT: International Rail Transport Committee
- CTR CIS: Council for Rail Transport of CIS countries
- EEC: European Economic Federation of Railway Trackworks Contractors
- EIM: European Rail Infrastructure Managers
- EFTA: European Rail Freight Association
- ECO: Economic Cooperation Organisation
- EIA: Energy Information Administration
- EIB: European Investment Bank
- FISAIC: Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Artistiques et Intellectuelles de Cheminots
- FIATA: International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations
- FIEC: European Construction Industry Federation
- ITF: International Transport Forum
- OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- UITP: International Association of Public Transport
- UN DESA: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
4. UIC GOVERNANCE

LEADING ASSEMBLIES REFLECTING WORLDWIDE MEMBERSHIP

- CHAIRMAN
- VICE CHAIRMAN
- DIRECTOR GENERAL

UIC GENERAL ASSEMBLY
200 Members

UIC EXECUTIVE BOARD
21 Members

AFRICA 4
ASIA PACIFIC 5
EUROPE 4
MIDDLE EAST 3
NORTH AMERICA 2
LATIN AMERICA 1

UIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
UIC HEADQUARTERS
UIC TECHNICAL COOPERATION BODIES TO SERVE THE RAILWAY COMMUNITY

SERVICES TO MEMBERS: MEMBER-LED WORKING BODIES

- **UIC PASSENGER FORUM**
  Passenger operators

- **UIC FREIGHT FORUM**
  Freight operators

- **UIC RAIL SYSTEM FORUM**
  Infrastructure managers, operators

- **PLATFORMS**
  Expertise Development, Environment, Energy and Sustainability, Research and Innovation, Safety, Security, Standardisation, Digital

SERVICES TO MEMBERS: TECHNICAL DEPARTMENTS

- **PASSENGER**
  Stations
  Commercial & Distribution, Intercity & High Speed, Commuters & Regional

- **FREIGHT**
  Dangerous Goods, Wagons, Train Operation, Corridors, Combined Transport, Freight Forwarders, Quality, IT, Exceptional Consignments

- **RAIL SYSTEM**
  Standardisation, Rolling Stock, Energy Management, Track & Structure, Train-Track Interaction, Control Command Signalling, Telecommunications, Operation & Maintenance, Asset Management

- **FUNDAMENTAL VALUES**
  Research*, Safety, Security, Environment, Expertise Development

*To complete these research bodies, UIC has set up the International Railway Research Board (IRRB). Its mission is to effectively meet the needs of railways in the field of research and innovation performance and to coordinate Rail research strategies in different parts of the world.

1950
Eurofima

1957
Trans-Europ Express
3 LEVELS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

STRATEGIC LEVEL

UIC also coordinates visions and action plans of the 6 Railway Regions. High level entities establish the political and strategic orientations of the Organisation. The General Assembly comprises CEOs of all the UIC Members and the Executive Board is composed of 21 Members representing all the geographical regions of UIC.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Railway projects are coordinated by Forums and Platforms bringing together the leaders for each expertise. UIC is first and foremost a repository of railway expertise and a forum for sharing experience and seeking solutions whose aim is to improve railway competitiveness. In particular, it is at UIC that current and future operating specifications and solutions were first developed. Taking the form of UIC coordinated projects, this cooperation boosts railway efficiency and attractiveness worldwide. It also facilitates the development of international rail links, which benefit all rail users.

SUPPORT SERVICES LEVEL

UIC brings its support through communication, finance, HR, legal and institutional activities to all the projects for the benefit of its stakeholders.

KEY FACT

One part of preparing for the future is investing in innovation, new technologies and digitalisation. UIC has a portfolio of some 200 technical projects and is involved in studies featuring involvement from all sector stakeholders. The railway industry cannot perform without a skilled, motivated and innovative workforce. Training, education and workforce development have a key role to play to accompany and anticipate the changes. The UIC flagship Rail Talent project is an initiative to redefine talent development and virtual working in the global rail industry.

1960
Trans Europ Express Marchandises

1964
Shinkansen - First High Speed line
5. PROVIDING RAILWAY EXPERTISE AT WORLDWIDE LEVEL

1972
UIC launches Interrail

1981
TGV first high speed train operates at 260km/h

**PROVIDER**
- Technical and operational expertise
- System data
- Best practices

**DEVELOPER**
- Specifications
- Technical solutions
- Interoperability for international rail corridors

**ANTICIPATOR**
- Innovation - new ideas, new concepts
- Proof of concept, prototypes
- Brainstorming about future jobs and skills

**FACILITATOR**
- KNOW-HOW
- Exchange & benchmarking

**ORGANISER**
- Protecting the common interests of the Members
- Supporting policies of development of key infrastructure projects

**FORUMS, PLATFORMS**
- Technical structures of cooperation between Members

**SEMINARS**
- CONGRESSES
  - UIC HIGHSPEED Congress
  - Global Rail Freight Conference
  - UIC World ERTMS and GRTMS Conference
  - UIC World Security Congress
  - UIC NEXTSTATION Conference
  - UIC Sustainable Development Conference
  - World Congress on Rail Research
  - World Congress on Rail Training
  - World Conference on Rail Transport Telecoms FRMCS
Rail freight is increasingly integrated into the global transport supply chain and logistics solutions and this is the main topic which UIC Members have to deal with and which UIC’s work has to address.

In this context, key issues are: Interoperability and cooperation, productivity issues, Innovation in reducing the cost of operations.

Research is a core and fundamental task of UIC, supporting the efforts of its Members in their need to resolve operational issues and problems. UIC plays a crucial role as driver, disseminator, knowledge manager, as well as a platform for discussion and exchange of experience and best practice.

Safety is at the core of rail activity and UIC has an increasing role to play in helping its Members to develop harmonised or compatible measures within a region to ensure the high level of safety expected from the railways, combined with constantly improving flexibility and competitiveness. The railway sector has to develop a security professionalism and culture, as elements of the quality of service, in partnership with the national authorities in charge of security of people and goods on their territory.

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Together with its Members, UIC continues its daily efforts to promote the benefits of rail in order to meet the global challenges of mobility and sustainable development in close cooperation with leading international organisations with competence in this field.

The digital agenda is a strategic issue. The objectives are to help share best practices among Members and help connect them with start-ups, where innovation actually happens. UIC’s method is openness. The idea was also to build a community at the service of the railways, in order to “Make rail smarter” in the coming years and decades. One of the mottos of UIC is “Share-Open-Connect”.
CURRENT PROJECTS

200 projects underway, including 20 co-financed by the European Union.

EMBRACING NEW CHALLENGES

- THE POWER OF DATA
- USEFUL MOBILITY
- THINKING SMART
- CONNECTIVITY
- SUSTAINABLE CITIES

CURRENT PROJECTS

- COLLABORATIVE TRAVEL
- CUSTOMISED AND FLOWING EXPERIENCE
- TRANSPORT MIX
- PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MASH UP

1987 EuroCity
1991 UIC White Paper
1992 EuroNight
First and foremost, all UIC Members are entitled to participate in UIC decision making by:

- taking part in General Assemblies, held twice a year.
- taking part in the Regional Assembly: Europe, Asia-Pacific, North America, Latin America, Africa or Middle-East in which they are located.
- taking part in major UIC events: conferences and seminars.
- having access to UIC core information.

**ACTIVE MEMBERS**
Companies or entities, public or private, (passenger and/or freight) Railway Undertaking ensuring traction and/or a railway Infrastructure Manager; they should have a volume of railway business in excess of an amount approved by the General Assembly.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**
Companies or entities, public or private. They don’t fulfil the condition for active Members of having a volume of railway business in excess of an amount approved by the General Assembly.

**AFFILIATE MEMBERS**
Companies or entities, public or private, including institutes and associations, whose railway activities relate to urban, suburban or regional services or which conduct activities linked to the rail business.

Active Members are entitled to take part in any Forum, Platform and Working Group. Associate or Affiliate Members may take part in any Forum, Platform and Working Group which is related to their line of business, and have access to findings, conclusions and reports subject to the approval of other members of the Forum, Platform or Working Group.
Access to UIC core information including:

- E-shop www.shop-etf.com: all UIC Publications, IRSs, Technical reports...
- RailLexic: UIC’s terminology database and the leading reference in the field of multilingual railway terminology – 22 languages available
- UIC website www.uic.org
- Brochures
- UIC e-News: the weekly electronic newsletter

Participations in:

- Congresses, conferences
- Training programmes