UIC / ONCF
International Security Congress

Rail security: strategies and partnerships

Final declaration

The participants who met in Marrakech on 16 and 17 March 2009 endorse the first World Security Congress held outside Europe and thank the Moroccan authorities for having hosted and officially opened the Congress, held as part of the activities of the UIC Security Platform and organised by ONCF and the UIC Competence Centre for Security.

The presence of representatives from the railways of 23 countries across the world and the various UIC Regional Assemblies bears witness to the importance that rail security issues have taken on for our companies and countries. It demonstrates that security issues must remain core company concerns, and must be integrated into their strategic business vision.

The presence of representatives of various international bodies and institutions and of specialist working groups reminds us that these issues are both a matter for companies and for public authorities, and that strengthened partnerships are indispensable in ensuring the effectiveness of any measures which may be taken.

Security strategies must first and foremost take account of human factors at all times:

- the responsibilities of security staff, whether company staff or members of state forces, must be specified and coordinated
- other company staff must be involved via the development of a genuine security culture
- provision must be made for customers and passengers playing a part in improving their own security

These strategies must be supported by appropriate technologies designed to meet the specific needs of the rail sector. Research efforts in this area must be pursued and the contribution of specialist companies placed at the fore:

- in order to develop research by according priority to the specific needs of technology users
- in order to incentivise companies, particularly vehicle manufacturers, to include security considerations in their products on an ongoing basis.

These strategies are to be furthered in partnership both with national authorities and with the international bodies and institutions whose work has a bearing on domestic transport security.
Participants take note of the work done within the UIC Security Platform, and of its reorganisation during summer 2008.

They request the Platform:
- to develop the work of the existing working groups with emphasis placed on international aspects, in particular border crossings and freight corridor security.
- to set in place the group dedicated to human factors chaired by Russian Railways (RZD) and to share information on the training of specialist staff.
- to monitor technological developments and participate in research projects which may benefit rail security

They wish to see the development of a network of experts able to act on the authority of the UIC Regional Assemblies in order to further the Platform’s work and ensure international consistency in the considerations, decisions and strategies pursued.

They request the various international bodies to consider the possibility of taking international-level decisions on rail security, via the development of minimum security standards to be observed by all involved in rail transport, consideration as to the appropriateness of an international competent authority, the strengthening of partnerships with rail transport players, or any other means they think suitable.

Participants request the Security Platform and UIC Competence Centre for Security to convey this declaration to the next UIC General Assembly and the forthcoming Regional Assemblies, and to monitor appropriately the decisions taken.

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