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“NEXT STATION”, the International Conference on Railway Stations opens today in Moscow: Adapting to Future Society

All key players across the railway station community discuss the link between stations and society

(Moscow/Paris, 17 October 2013) On 17 and 18 October 2013 the International Union of Railways (UIC) together with the JSC Russian Railways (RZD) are organising “NEXT STATION”, the International Conference on Railway Stations, to focus more particularly on the link between stations and society. It follows the previous editions successfully organised in Rome, Paris and Brussels since 2005. For the first time, the international conference is being held directly at a railway station, Moscow Kazansky Station, the centre of one of the largest transport hubs in Moscow located in the middle of the city.

This conference gives the opportunity to bring together all the actors involved in this railway issue: governments, international organisations and representatives from the transport world, railway undertakings, as well as station managers, local authorities, service providers, manufacturers, architects, urban developers, research agencies, etc. In a word, anyone who has anything at all to do with stations to review all strategic issues related to the development and operation of railway stations.

This conference provides the perfect opportunity to exchange new development trends within the sphere of railway stations and obtain knowledge about contemporary themes such as stations of the future, opening up stations to new operators, new developments in the realm of service and intermodality, urban-planning development in station areas and economic models for stations and sustainability.

The conference was launched today in an opening ceremony, with a welcoming address given by Mr Vladimir Yakunin, President of JSC Russian Railways (RZD), UIC Chairman, and Mr Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director-General.

During his speech Mr Vladimir Yakunin underlined: “Today train stations are evolving into major intermodal transportation hubs, centres of gravity and redistribution of passenger flows. Thus it is equally important to seek answers to a whole range of questions regarding their efficiency and commercial attractiveness of passenger station operations and achieving maximum performance efficiency. So the task of today’s conference is not to reinvent the wheel but to incrementally and effectively continue the current dialogue with consideration for the latest dynamic changes in this field, while seeking new points of contact in our multilateral cooperation. Specifically the venue provides the opportunity to exchange opinions with representatives of governments, other modes of transport and interested businesses”.

Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director-General, said: “The content of Next Station reflects the diversity and complexity of the station’s role starting from the function of the nodes like the beating hearts of the railway network, that sustain it by injecting and managing the movement of all travellers who are, let us not forget, the railways’ “raison d’être”, ... railway stations have gradually become organised, transformed and developed to host all those passing through – whether travellers or not – and to offer board, lodging, or other everyday services. Stations have become an interface between all the various modes of mobility. They have thus become the mediators of railway mobility”.

Next Station will include a high-level round table on the conference theme “The Railway Station – linking Railways and Society” and a series of sessions dedicated to all strategic issues of railway station planning, development, financing and operations.

A press release is to be issued to summarise the conference content.

In the lead-up to “**NEXT STATION**”, UIC offers you an informative and interactive tour through these places of convergence, connections, departures and returns – ultimately the symbol of our mobility:

<http://www.uic.org/com/uic-vslider/railway-stations/>

The journey will take you round the stations of Brussels, Copenhagen, Paris, Stuttgart, Rome, Tokyo, Amsterdam, Madrid, Zurich, Moscow and Seoul in “**Railway Station Renovations**”, and will show you how these stations have managed to evolve and adapt to new demands.

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