

Noise Workshop – welcome address

15 March 09:00 am (List)

Good morning. Today it is my pleasure to welcome a wide range of stakeholders in addition to UIC members.

So perhaps you will allow me to give you a short introduction to UIC

UIC is the global railway association;
formed in 1922 we now have around 240 members from 100 countries.

Together our members represent more than 90% of worldwide rail activity, with one million kilometers of infrastructure, seven million members of staff and a significant volume of traffic, providing mobility for seven billion people around the world.

We are the rail sectors technical platform, with a large program of technical development, benchmarking & sharing of best practice.

We organize over 80 conferences and workshops each year - of which today represents an important contribution.

We have a central role in research and lead on operations and maintenance standardization, for the sector, and by the sector.

UIC represents the interests of the rail sector in the global discourse on sustainable transport.

We have consultative status to the United Nations, and following my appointment by the UN secretary general to the high level advisory group on sustainable transport, I am privileged to be able to contribute to the first UN conference on sustainable transport and the global outlook report to be published later this year.

Whilst rail has the lowest environmental impact of any major mode of transport – in Europe at least, CO2 and energy are not the only issues and **noise remains a critical one.**

We must work together to ensure greater acceptance of rail transport if we are to increase rail modal share and through this to improve the sustainability of the transport sector.

UIC has been an active participant in the long history of railway noise control. I know that many of the people in this room worked closely with UIC and the European Rail Research Institute on noise projects. And also directly with UIC more recently – notably for the EuropeTrain project.

It is particularly pleasing to see the conclusions of the EuropeTrain project now being implemented.

It is through these actions that the sector is able to demonstrate that it can innovate, and respond to the need for new technical solutions.

It is clear that **the political sensitivity of railway noise** has increased in recent years.

Whilst UIC is dedicated to technical development, we welcome our colleagues from Brussels, to open the workshop and introduce the key policy issues: this includes DG MOVE (Mr Wojcik), DG Environment (Ms JURAGA) and CER (Ethem Pekin).

For the workshop this year we have taken a more open approach, and I thank the representatives of the road (Patrick Malléjacq, incoming Secretary General of the world road association PIARC) and (Marina Bylinsky) aviation sectors for joining us.

Not to forget our other distinguished speakers, notably Mr Stephen Stansfeld to discuss his important work with the world health organization, and also the range of stakeholders who will help us to examine issues of communication with residents.

Welcome to Paris.

I trust you will have open and constructive discussions.

I wish you a productive & successful workshop.