More than 400 EcoPassengers will travel on the CO₂ free « Climate Express » train from Brussels to COP 15 in Copenhagen

*The Climate Expert Travel Team that started their journey in Kyoto will also join the Climate Express*

(Paris / Copenhagen, 05.12.09). Today, Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, Director General of the International Union of Railways (UIC), the initiator of this special train, together with Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and James P. Leape, Director General of WWF will host more than 400 high level EcoPassengers: climate change negotiators, business leaders, environmental activists and journalists on board of the Climate Express train taking them to COP 15 in Copenhagen, which starts on 7 December. The British Council will be on board with a group of Young Climate Champions coming from the 5 continents.

The aim of the journey is to support and encourage decision-makers to delivering a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, the first international effort to cut green house gas emissions. Its purpose is also to send out the message that the next-generation climate agreement and its supporting policies and procedures need to address the transport sector’s growing emissions.

The Climate Expert Team will also join the Climate Express. The team started the symbolic train journey 3 weeks ago in Kyoto – the birthplace of the current Climate Change Protocol. The journey took them among others along the Trans-Siberian route, organised by Russian Railways (RZD), with Copenhagen as their final destination. The Team will bring a special message from the rail community a global position paper entitled “Keeping Climate Change Solutions on Track: The Role of Rail”.

The Climate Express to Copenhagen will be the platform for a wide range on-board activities including high level discussions aiming to raise awareness of the transport sector’s influence on climate change. The on-board workshops and round-table discussions on the various aspects of sustainable mobility and how it can be addressed in a post-2012 agreement constitute a key opportunity for passengers on board to discuss the crucial climate talks ahead.

The journey will be totally CO₂-free journey, as the power drawn for the locomotive is entirely from renewable sources of energy. If the same group of people flew to Copenhagen they would produce 115kg CO₂ per person.

Connie Hedegaard, the Minister for the UN Climate Change Conference 2009 in Copenhagen, and Commissioner for Climate Action, Søren Eriksen, CEO of the Danish Railways (DSB), and Kim Carstensen, Leader, Global Climate Initiative, WWF International will welcome the Climate Express at arrival in Copenhagen.

The Climate Express will be the final leg of the ‘Train to Copenhagen’ project, organized by the International Union of Railways (UIC) with the support of the UN’s Seal the Deal! Campaign and WWF, the global conservation organisation.

For more information on the Train to Copenhagen project and the reports of the Climate Expert Travel Team’s journey from Kyoto to Brussels please visit: www.traintocopenhagen.org
Practical information on the Climate Express

Departure from Brussels Midi (Platform 3)

From 8 am: Possibilities to interview:
- Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, Director General of the International Union of Railways (UIUC),
- Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
- James P Leape, Director General of WWF

as well as the other EcoPassengers in front of the train

9.10 am: Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, Vice Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC will sound the whistle signalling of the departure of the Climate Express

Arrival in Copenhagen Central Station:

22.55 Official Welcome by
Connie Hedegaard, the Minister for the UN Climate Change Conference COP 15 and Commissioner for Climate Action
Søren Eriksen, CEO of the Danish Railways (DSB)
Kim Carstensen, Leader, Global Climate Initiative, WWF International

Personalities boarding the Climate Express train to Copenhagen on 5 December will include:
- Mr Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director
- Mr Philippe Henry, Minister of Environment and Mobility
- Ms Evelyne Huytebroeck, Minister of Environment
- Mr Etienne Schouppe, Belgian State Secretary for Mobility
- Mr Jean-Pascal Van Ypersele, IPCC Vice-President
- Mr Matthias Ruete, Director General, Energy and Transport at the European Commission
- Mr James P. Leape, Director General, WWF International
- Mr Yoshio Ishida, UIC Chairman and Vice Chairman of East Japan Railways
- Mr Rüdiger Grube, CEO of Deutsche Bahn
- Mr Guillaume Pepy, CEO of SNCF
- Mr Jannie Haek, CEO SNCB-Holding
- Mr Richard Brown – CEO Eurostar
- Mr Francisco José Cardoso Dos Reis, President of the Board of Directors of the Portuguese Railways (CP)
- Mr Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director General
- Mr Johannes Ludewig, CER Executive Director
- Mr Michael Robson, EIM Generalsekretär
- Mr Michael Clausecker, Director-General of UNIFE
- Mr Hans Rat, UITP Secretary General
- Mr. Wang Shi, the Chairman of the Chinese Society of Ecology and Entrepreneurs and Chairman of Vanke corporation
- Ms Franny Armstrong, the producer and director of the film The Age of Stupid
- Mr Luo Hong, the wildlife photographer and UNEP Climate Hero

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