



*The spoken word alone prevails*

**Address by Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, Director General of the  
International Union of Railways (UIC)**

**At 11<sup>th</sup> UIC ERTMS World Conference,**

**Istanbul, 2 April 2014**

Ministers, Excellencies

Director-Generals,

Esteemed Representatives of the Turkish authorities and

International institutions or associations,

Dear colleagues from the world rail sector,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor and a huge personal pleasure to be today in this beautiful world city of Istanbul, on the bank of the Bosphorus, for the opening of the 11<sup>th</sup> UIC World Conference dedicated to ERTMS.

After very successful editions in Malaga in 2009 and then Stockholm in 2012, we managed to organize this important event for the first time in Turkey thanks to the strong and continuous support of our members and friends from Turkish State Railways, and first of all

- **Thanks** to the commitment of Süleyman Karaman, Director General of TCDD –and also Chairman of our UIC Middle-East Region- and all his teams in Ankara who worked in an excellent cooperation spirit with the UIC

- **Thanks** as well to all the other partners involved, in particular the community of railway suppliers represented in UNIFE.

I also have to express our gratitude to the Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Lütfi Elvan, who accepted to support this railway event with his High Patronage.

A warmest welcome also to all participants present today, over **500 delegates from 33 countries in the world**, exhibitors, sponsors representing all major ERTMS suppliers, that means all the players involved in the ERTMS developments.

We are particularly happy to open this world conference today **in Istanbul**.

Actually, for the first time, the UIC ERTMS Conference is taken place not in a central location in Europe, but here at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and the Middle-East.

**A very strong symbol.**

Indeed, as we could discover yesterday during the technical visits (for which we warmly thank TCDD), Turkey has become one of the very leading countries having faith and confidence in railways as an effective mean of promoting economic and social development in the present and future.

The impressive Marmaray project inaugurated last Autumn and offering a seamless rail link between Europe and Asia,

The fast development of High-Speed rail in all parts of the country,  
Modernization of freight lines,  
Restoration of connections with neighboring countries in particular towards Asia and the Middle-East with a view of recreating intercontinental corridors (the “New Silk Road”,..), are all signs of an exceptional ambition and dynamism for the rail sector as part of an effective multimodal mobility system.

We are also aware that Turkish Government and TCDD put a high priority on issues of interoperability and harmonization of railway operating procedures in order to take a full advantage of the geography of the country and promote international traffic linking Europe, Asia, the Middle-East, and Far East Asia in a near future.

I am very pleased today to also welcome delegates from countries and regions represented for the first time at our UIC ERTMS conferences, in particular colleagues from North Africa, the Middle-East, Far East Asia ...

This high interest for the 2014 conference proves that the ERTMS system –with its components ETCS for train-control and GSM-R for radio communications- has not only proven its viability in Europe (where the system becomes mandatory for the new installations) but is also offering new implementation perspectives all over the world.

For example ERTMS/ETCS is chosen as the best system in China for over 10,000 km, Saudi Arabia with 2,000 km and 440 in operations, Maghreb countries, Australia, Brazil ...

The conference motto “**ERTMS – Optimizing Rail Investments Worldwide**”

reflects

- the commitment of all actors, especially the suppliers, to lower the costs, ensure interoperability and optimize migration and system evolution,
- the commitment of the railways to implement ETCS and make it deliver the expected benefits (e.g. in view of a corridor policy).

Beside its business significance, the UIC ERTMS conference is the high-level technical and communication platform to re-assess and prove :

- satisfaction of users requirements in terms of safety and reliability, stability and interoperability,
- system flexibility to be applicable on regional, conventional and high speed lines,
- capability to achieve high-tech approaches to formalization of requirements, use of computer-based methods to prove safety, inclusion of new technologies (e.g. satellite train positioning SATLOC,...) ,
- migration along the technology trends in the telecommunications domain (from GSM-R to UMTS, 3G, 4G Long term evolution),...

The conference will enable exchange of experience and best practices from suppliers, railways' successful applications with their return of experience and future perspectives.

But it will also show:

- the challenges of IT technologic migration, need of components' renewal,
- increased costs for testing in all conditions for interoperability,
- challenges of migration in the telecom domain.

The Istanbul conference will certainly demonstrate that targets can be reached and new perspectives opened through a close cooperation with political decision-makers (European Commission or Parliament, European Railway Agency) and stakeholders (CER, Users' Group), railways, industries.

The new institutional framework (with the new ERA) will definitively contribute to stability, efficiency of implementation,.... **And progress.**

By the way, I would like to underline the essential role played by UIC to develop the system feedback, benchmarking, and technological progress.

**Also the role of UIC to open new domains of investigation and provision of solutions to secure the use of IT, software and communications in an era of openness and globalization.**

Let us mention for example the consideration on cyber criminality and efficient responses – ARGUS)

Our commitment is permanent to provide the railways, our members, with the knowledge and shared perspectives ...

The 11<sup>th</sup> UIC ERMS Conference already started yesterday with the impressive technical visits as well as a first interactive workshop of TCDD specialists and UIC signaling experts on the ETCS principles, challenges and perspectives.

The sessions to come will provide a unique opportunity to gain an overview of all achievements, implementation decisions and new ERTMS developments across the world.

In thanking again our hosts from Turkey, the conference Organizing Committee and CMS Project for the organization, I wish to all of you a fruitful conference and excellent stay in Istanbul.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.