UIC Workshop on Tunnel Safety and Security held on 16 October 2018 in Bled, Slovenia

(Bled, 16 October 2018) Before the official opening of the 14th edition of the UIC Global Rail Security Congress, jointly organised by the security directorate of Slovenian Railways, Slovenske železnice, together with the International Union of Railways (UIC), the Worldwide Railway Organisation, a workshop on Tunnel Safety and Security is being held today in Bled, Slovenia.

The main focus of the workshop is to underline the coherence and synergy between security and safety, even if these notions and responsibilities are different. Tunnels may be seen as a sub-complex system, and the railway system needs to be considered as a whole in constant interaction with the external world.

The workshop opened with speeches delivered by Mr Bernard Penners and Mr Marc Antoni representing UIC, and underlined the fact that tunnels need a comprehensive protection approach, and that there is a need to manage risks and threats in a systemic way.

UIC presented the main tunnel pathologies and the proposed innovative methods in order to minimise:
- Risk of tunnel collapse (strengthening)
- Risk when carrying out work (phasing)
- Other operational risks (TIT, AWT)

Specific emphasis was placed on the risk management approach including safety and security: prevention, attenuation, evacuation and rescue aspects. If the TSI is only applicable for new or refurbished tunnels, UIC strongly supports all “existing tunnel securing” actions in application, complete or partial, of the measures proposed by the TSI Tunnel.

Mr Stanislav LotriČ, from ACPDR, Slovenia, gave a presentation on fire safety in public railway infrastructure.

Mr Denis Luyten from UITP, Belgium shared his report about an initial experience using drones in the Belgian underground system.
At the end of each session, a solution provider presented some technical answers: Mr Emin Simsek from BOSCH, Turkey, about BOSCH security and safety applications in tunnels and Mr Steffen De Muynck, from FLIR, Belgium, about thermal safety systems for rail tunnels.

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