



PRESS RELEASE 22/2018

14th UIC World Security Congress on the theme “Crisis Management and Resilience” is being held from 16 – 18 October 2018 in Bled, Slovenia

(Bled, 17 October 2018) The 14th edition of the UIC World Security Congress is being jointly organised by the Security Directorate of Slovenian Railways, Slovenske železnice, together with the International Union of Railways (UIC), the Worldwide Railway Organisation, under the umbrella theme “Crisis Management and Resilience”, which is focusing on the handling of (partial) blackout situations.

The conference is being attended by over 100 participants from 23 countries. Among them are police, Slovenian security agencies and railway representatives of the UIC Security Platform, Chaired by Mr Marc Beaulieu, Chairman of the UIC Security Platform from VIA Rail, Canada and by Piotr Kurcz, Vice Chair of the UIC Security Platform.

This year, the congress is being held for the first time in Slovenia and focuses on “Crisis Management and Resilience”, with various presentations on the topics below:

- Blackout Situation in Slovenia in 2014
- Ice storms and impact on railways
- Blackout Situation – Railway experience and challenges
- Crisis Management

During the opening session, Mr Kranjc, Director of SŽ-Infrastructure, Ms Kocjan, Director General of Land Transport Directorate, Ministry of Infrastructure Republic of Slovenia, Mr Loubinoux, Director General of UIC, Mr Beaulieu, Chairman of the UIC Security Platform, and Mr Piotr Kurcz, Vice Chairman, welcomed the participants of the 14th Security Congress.

Mr Kranjc talked about the Slovenian railway network and its future development including the importance of Koper Port for Slovenia.

Ms Kocjan talked about the importance of crisis management and particularly underlined the blackout situation involving an ice storm in Slovenia in 2014 – a case which will be developed during the technical session.

During his speech, Mr Jean-Pierre Loubinoux highlighted three points in particular. The first point covered tunnel safety and the security seminar on 16 October.

“The topic was specifically requested by the Slovenian railways and served as an opportunity to underline the need to develop congruence between security and safety. It is also crucial to establish links and to develop synergies between the policies to be implemented and developed in these two areas.”

The second point is the theme of the congress: Crisis Management. *“Our approach must involve preventive and precautionary actions above all else, of course, to prevent the occurrence of negative events that could affect the ability of the rail sector to operate smoothly and effectively. There will always be incidents and accidents and that’s when the importance of expertise in crisis management really comes to the fore, whether it involves managing an emergency and coming to the aid of victims or dealing with the pressures of recovering traffic and tools for information and communicating with the public. In a world of technical resources and the various social networks that enable sharing of information in real time, whether that information is complete, regardless of whether it may be fully accurate or potentially manipulated, it is crucial that we know how to respond appropriately.”*

The third point was about the relationship between UIC and the Members, where he looks forward to the presentation of the security information hub and network of quick responders that will take place at the end of the congress. *“The hub will enable everyone to have access to all the information that they need in an efficient and user-friendly way, using key words that correspond to their queries.”*

He finished by sharing information about the launch of the SHERPA project: Shared and CoHerent European Railway Protection Approach, funded by the European Commission, which will look at the areas mentioned earlier regarding consistent security policies amongst our members, which will be launched in few weeks.

To conclude this opening session, Mr Beaulieu, and Mr Kurcz underlined the importance of the UIC Security Platform, its activities and projects.

CONTACTS:

Jacques Colliard, Head of the UIC Security Division: colliard@uic.org

Barbara Mouchel, Senior Communications Advisor – Major Events: mouchel@uic.org; com@uic.org