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Russian Railways (RZD) and the International Union of Railways (UIC) organise the Global Conference on Rail Freight in St. Petersburg on 6-7 July 2010.

(Paris/Moscow, 03.06.2010). This two-day global rail freight summit to be held in St. Petersburg will be one of the leading events in international rail freight transport, bringing together rail freight executives, partners in logistics, customers, politicians, regulators and transport organisations to discuss key issues from a global perspective.

The Global Rail Freight Conference is devoted to the prospects of worldwide expansion for international transport business, and to finding the optimum ways of overcoming the global financial and economic crisis and existing barriers to the further development of international rail freight.

It will be an excellent opportunity to share views within a worldwide network of rail freight specialists and actors. It will provide you with a unique overview of the latest trends in the railway sector from a business perspective, and give you the opportunity to share ideas in a global setting.

The Global Rail Freight Conference will be held under the patronage of the UN (UNECE) and supported by many international organisations (OTIF, OSJD, AAR, CER, EIM, CIT, UNIFE, FIATA, UIRR, BIC). It will feature rail freight leaders speaking on key freight issues. The main topics will be:

- Rail transport in the global economic and financial crisis
- "Green" logistics - new opportunities for railways
- Liberalisation of the railways - how to attract private investment?
- Railway land bridges - conditions for success
- Combined transport - the future of containers
- Wagonload shipments - flourishing in North America, surviving in Europe?
- Combined transport - the need to increase efficiency
- Rail-based global logistics - creating customer value

The conference will be opened by Vladimir Yakunin, President of RZD and Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, Director General of UIC

Other speakers who have confirmed their presence include:

- Zoltan Kazatsay, Deputy Director General, Directorate General MOVE, European Commission,
- Dr Karl-Friedrich Rausch, Board Member, DB,
- Pierre Blayau, CEO, SNCF Geodis,
- Ferdinand Schmidt, Member of the Executive Board, Rail Cargo Austria,
- Dr Sebastian Jürgens, Member of the Board, HHLA,
- Lance Hockridge, CEO, Queensland Rail (Australia),
- Alexey Averin, Vice President International, RZD,
- Stig Nerdal, CEO, Transportutveckling,
• Dr Alexander Hedderich, CEO, DB Schenker Rail,
• Dr Christoph Seidelmann, Vice President, B.I.C.,
• Oliver Sellnick, Freight Director, UIC,
• Brooks A. Bentz, Partner, Supply Chain Transportation, Accenture,
• Julian Smith, Partner, Global rail sector and transport infrastructure leader, PwC,
• Henry Posner III, Chairman, Railroad Development Corporation and Iowa Interstate Railroad,
• Jacques Koch, General Manager, Purchasing & Procurement Europe, Arcelor Mittal,
• Dr. Martin Streichfuss, Partner, Roland Berger.

The Conference will be held at the Astoria and Angleterre hotels. The official conference languages will be English and Russian.

Please bear in mind that you need 10 day to obtain a visa!

To register and obtain more information on the Conference, please visit: www.uic-grfc.org

Contacts:

For the Conference
Delphine Margot, GRC Communications Manager Tel: + 33 1 44 49 20 55 Email: margot@uic.org

For the Media
Liesbeth de Jong, UIC Media Relations, Tel: + 33 1 44 49 20 53, Email dejong@uic.org