



## **International Transport Committee**

**23 February 2016**

**UNECE Geneva**

### **Speech given by Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director General**

As the Director General of the International Railway Association, UIC, it is an honor to speak to you today.

UIC represents the entire global railway community, which effectively encompasses 1 million kilometers of infrastructure, 7 million members of staff and a significant volume of traffic, providing mobility for 7 billion people around the world. We have over 240 members, in 95 countries on 5 continents. This grants us the privileged position of being observers as the major trends in mobility unfold in the 21st century.

We are honored to support UNECE and the important work of the Inland Transport Committee.

I commend the recent UNECE publication “Transport for Sustainable Development”. It was our pleasure to make substantive contributions to this valuable report, notably on sustainability, safety and security of rail transport.

Both, UIC as an organization, and myself personally are committed to the cause of sustainable transport. It is a key driver for sustainable development and an enabler for virtually all the Sustainable Development Goals.

As many of you will know, the development of freight corridors is a key issue in this respect.

Analysis by the International Transport Forum indicates that Trade related international freight will grow by more than fourfold by 2050. The associated Carbon emissions will increase by almost a factor of four.

Rail as the backbone of a multimodal sustainable transport systems is a key part of the solution, to meet this demand through sustainable means.

In support of the United Nations Climate Change Agreement reached at COP21, our members committed themselves to improve rail sector energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. By 2030 we have set a target to improve both specific final energy consumption & specific average carbon emissions by 50% relative to a 1990 as baseline. I am pleased to report good progress, our sector has already achieved improvements of more than 40% for both of these targets. Of course we must sustain our efforts. By 2050 we aim for 60% improvement in energy efficiency and 75% carbon reduction.

In addition to these global targets, on the occasion of the COP21 Climate Conference, CEOs from 66 of our key members, representing the majority of the world rail activity, signed the UIC The Railway climate responsibility pledge. This sets out four company level commitments to take action on climate change.

Of course rail comes with other advantages. Rail is one of the safest forms of transport. Because of this, moving traffic off road and onto rail offers great potential for reducing road fatalities.

The UIC Safety Database has been collecting data on significant accidents since 2001. UIC is working to expand this to capture data beyond the current 21 European countries. Positive safety trends have been observed over the on the last seven years. UIC works with the rail sector to continuously improve levels of

safety. For this reason UIC launched the International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) campaign to make the road users and pedestrians aware of the dangers at and around level crossings worldwide. UN-ECE has always been a great supporter to the UIC initiative on level crossing

Unfortunately we have also to think to the protection of the rail sector in order to enable it to play its social, economic and environmental role, now and in the future. UIC has developed its security activity, on request and with the help of its members.

Beyond that 2016 programme will focus on training and communication, on interoperability and exchange of security-related information for international trains, and on benchmarking on crisis management.

In addition, a specific work will be organized on security of stations faced to both daily delinquency and terrorism, due to the current context. This topic should be the overarching theme of the next annual Global UIC Rail Security Congress which will be held in November/December 2016

### **High level Advisory Group and CLOSING**

Two years ago I was appointed to the High Level Advisory Group established with the mandate of advising UN Secretary General Mr. Ban ki-Moon on sustainable transport. It is my honour to be one of 16 in the group representing the broad spectrum of sustainable transport from across the globe.

I am sure that the High Level Advisory Group will make good use of the recommendations set in the UNECE report "Transport for Sustainable Development"

Thank you for your kind attention.