



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL RAIL BUSINESS FORUM 1520

31 MAY 2013 – Krasnaya Polyana, Sochi, Russia

WELCOMING SPEECH of

Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director General

I am very honored to be invited to deliver a message at the opening ceremony of this 8th edition of the International Rail Business Forum 1520. And at the same time, I am very sorry that it is the first time that I have missed the pleasure of being present with you in Sochi since 2009.

As UIC is a worldwide association representing the railway sector, Sochi has indeed become a key place for informative exchanges and excellent networking with members, partners, colleagues and friends from the whole world, about the development of rail transport and interoperability in Central Asia in connection with Eastern Europe, Eastern and Southern Asia.

UIC is mainly a technical platform, trying to promote the vision of its members around the world and the added values of rail development for economies and societies. As a technical platform, it is one of the very few places where a systemic approach and technical integration between all stakeholders can be studied and exercised through the various projects we can develop together. Two of our key actions consist in the development of international corridors linking Europe and Asia, and the transmission of professional and managerial know-how and competence to a new generation of railway men and women to efficiently run the railways of tomorrow.

Thank you very much for your support to UIC and, in the first place, to Mr. Yakunin as the host of the Sochi meeting and as the Chairman of our association.