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UIC'S NEW YEAR RECEPTION, 12 JANUARY 2017

SPEECH

Dear colleagues, dear Mr Loubinoux, it is with real pleasure that I'm here today to pay tribute to all the UIC HQ staff after my election as UIC Chairman.

I am very honoured to take over the UIC Chairmanship to further promote UIC values during the next two years and I will do my very best.

I am sure that reinforcing and streamlining our work on a common and agreed agenda will give us the opportunity to enable international railway **cooperation**, represent and promote the **interests** of rail transport worldwide and foster **synergies** between different bodies at Global and Regional level.

The UIC results are the combined effort of the UIC members and of UIC staff.

We are a big family of around 200 members from 100 countries. In my mandate, I would like to reinforce the communication between the UIC Regional Assemblies.

UIC is the worldwide house of railways and UIC staff has to continue to develop both the tools we need to share best practices as well as our network of experts. UIC members have joined UIC for the know-how they can get and share and for the problems we can solve together.

INVESTMENTS

Huge investment programs are under way or envisaged on rail at world level. In this context, UIC is called to play a substantial and significant role to collect and mutualize experiences as well as advice. Intercontinental corridors must remain a permanent subject for our association. UIC shall be seen as a fundamental international forum to plan and design them. Rail for its future cannot miss out on investment programs and rail advocacy must be played at all levels, starting from the UN to national and regional governments, as a modal shift to rail can be a major driver for decarbonisation of transport.

To access further funds, we need to convince public and private investors to get on board, as it is already the case in some countries. Memorandums of Understandings with third

parties, such as the one with the European Investment Bank and other Regional Development Banks, will give us new opportunities. I would like to encourage UIC to further promote these actions and I would expect reporting back on the results obtained during each General Assembly, monitoring the level of new rail investments in all UIC Regions.

COOPERATION with public transport associations

While relying on the work that we are already developing to build a sustainable urban mobility, to get better solutions for our customers, railways need to collaborate with all public stakeholders, in particular other modes of transport. Four billion out of the global population's seven billion live in big cities. These numbers give us the right indication where the railway community has more chance to tackle the fight against congestion, pollution and noise. I believe that UIC has to further develop this issue working at worldwide level with organizations such as the International Association of Public Transport (UITP).

DIGITAL RAILWAY - DIGITALIZATION

We are witnessing a significant change in the world of rail transportation due to the wide diffusion of digitalization. Customers, most personnel and some suppliers already live and work in a digital environment. UIC has recently set up the Digital Platform to identify the opportunities for rail, promote a range of development proposals, seek sources and act as a guiding mind for the delivery of future solutions, both in terms of operations and customer relations. Google and UBER, for instance, are developing new solutions to meet mobility needs. We need to pursue technical projects at UIC, but I would also check with the other CEOs the willingness and the extent to use UIC as a counterpart of these new actors in digital mobility.

The railway technology as the signalling system, the maintenance and management of railway lines and fleets could also benefit from this revolution. Automatic Train Operation should be easier than car automatic driving or aircraft automatic operations, however technologies and investments are heading otherwise. Our Research and Innovation Group shall pool technological expertise, identify new fields of research, create and administer common curricula and train on the new technologies. Also in this case we might need to cooperate with others, from our suppliers to digital and telecom actors.

The success of this work can only be obtained through coordinated actions performed by the UIC Headquarter staff and the experts working in UIC bodies and I would like to



thank you for your activities. I am confident myself and Jean Pierre will lead UIC even further in these territories.

Thank you very much again for your attention and for your trust, and I wish you all and to your families a successful year.