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**UIC, the worldwide railway organisation, co-organises with PKP SA, the Polish railways, the 17th World Security Congress in Warsaw, Poland**

Theme: ““Innovative security solutions for rail”

(Warsaw, 14 June 2022) In the context of UIC Centenary this year, and the month of June being the innovation month for UIC, the 17th UIC World Security Congress opened today in Warsaw. It is jointly organised by UIC, the worldwide railway organisation, and PKP SA, the Polish railways. They are honoured to welcome the Minister of State Assets in Poland Mr Maciej Małecki, the Director General of PKP SA and UIC Chairman, Mr Krzysztof Mamiński, UIC General Director Mr François Davenne and the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the UIC Security Platform from Poland and Indian railways, Mr Piotr Kurz and Mr Sanjay Chander.

Around 100 participants from 25 countries all over the world will have the opportunity to discuss the congress theme of “Innovative security solutions for rail”. The participants represent railway security managers, transport and police authorities, and international organisations.

Various presentations on the topics below will follow:

- Rail security strategy and cooperation with authorities
- Implementation and evaluation of innovative solutions
- Security by design: best practices
- Looking at the future: on-going EU security research projects
- International Cooperation activities and Interactive session

The opening session of the congress was moderated by Mr Conrado Moreno-Szypowski, a television journalist in Poland.

First, Mr Krzysztof Mamiński, UIC chairman and CEO of PKP SA said: “*We work every day to make travel by rail safe and comfortable.*

*The issue we are discussing today is extremely important, particularly in the context of events beyond Poland's eastern border, which is also the border of the European Union. Security issues in today's unstable world are crucial to the functioning of both sovereign states and key sectors of their economies. The events of recent months have confirmed how important a role railroads play in the delivery of humanitarian and economic aid to war-affected regions and the transport of refugees. [...]*

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*we meet today to talk about improving rail security, and there is no security without innovation. Innovation is one of the fundamental drivers for the development of any organization, including railroad companies. This also applies to the area of security. And in this context I would like to stress the great importance of the International Union of Railways, which in every crisis strives to unite railwaymen from all continents, at the same time encouraging the sharing of knowledge and experiences of individual members.*

Mr Maciej Malecki, the Minister of State Assets in Poland, then said: “An absolute priority for all railroad companies should be to ensure the highest level of security for passengers during the entire journey, both at regional, national and international level.

*This can be achieved by continuously developing the rail offer, developing innovative solutions to increase the railway's resistance to emerging threats: from cyber attacks to terrorist threats.”*

Mr François Davenne, Director General of UIC, “Safety and security are key elements of the customer experience and rail operations.

*This year's UIC security congress takes place in a context which is very sensitive in Europe with the ongoing conflict and raises new security challenges.*

*It is important to exchange points of view, share experiences, and prepare the future including the working programme of the security division*

*This 2-day conference will focus on innovative solutions to ensure that rail customers and staff are safe and secure in station and trains. It will also be the opportunity to take stock of UIC security activities (SAFETY4RAILS EU project, PROACTIVE EU project and the activities of the security division).”*

The session was concluded by Mr Piotr Kurcz, Chairman of the UIC Security Platform who highlighted that: “There can be no doubt that ensuring safety and security of people, properties and goods of the entire railway sector is one of the main priorities. Therefore, we must constantly look to the future and develop innovative solutions to increase the resilience and to improve the safety and security of railway networks against emerging threats (also in times of crisis or in times of war)” and by Mr Sanjay Chander who underlined “the importance of fostering resilience in the railways and the important role response tools and assessment technologies must play in the implementation of innovative solutions to help increase security levels across the whole sector.”

## CONTACT

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*UIC is the worldwide organisation for the promotion of rail transport at a global level and collaborative development of the railway system. It brings together some 200 members on all 5 continents, among them rail operators, infrastructure managers, railway service providers, etc. UIC maintains close cooperation links with all actors in the rail transport domain right around the world, including manufacturers, railway associations, public authorities and stakeholders in other domains and sectors whose experiences may be beneficial to rail development. The UIC's main tasks include understanding the business needs of the rail community, developing programmes of innovation to identify solutions to those needs and preparing and publishing a series of documents known as IRS that facilitate the implementation of the innovative solutions.*

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