

Note for the 2nd Conference on Railway Standardisation

First of all, I bring you the greetings from the CEO of the Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane Group, Michele Mario Elia who unfortunately cannot attend today due to a sudden institutional commitment. Anyway he welcomes this initiative of UIC and asked me to represent his full support to this conference.

Nobody can deny that railway standardisation is a fundamental component for the implementation of the railway service, being its importance expressed both in the achievement of the expected level of performances, like safety and quality, and in the overall sustainability.

The UIC idea, started last year, to hold a yearly Conferences on Railway Standardisation has at least a twofold relevance: providing a direct benchmark on the periodic evolution of the sector and allow the different stakeholders to clearly express their needs while knowing the position of the others.

I personally consider today as comprehensive working session where programmatic views can be formed and clear strategies and actions exposed, if not even shared.

In our concept standards' aim is not to create barriers or engender protectionism of anybody, but to be customer-driven.

Railway Operating Companies invest a lot of money in standardisation at any level and need a concrete return from it, therefore it is necessary that concepts like cooperation among standardisation organisations, complementarity of the different kind of standards, convergence of the solutions , support to the business and the investments, service orientation be the basis of this activity.

Any strategy that does not produce real benefits, like for instance invasion of the pitch, local or regional conflicts, compulsoriness of some provisions upon the customers, should be strongly isolated.

It emerges therefore a central role of the railway operating companies that are responsible to provide to all the stakeholders structured and clear user requirements, functionalities and performances of the components necessary to implement and perform the railway service. This includes also the domains closely linked to operation, maintenance and management that represent the everyday activity of the railways.

Since the institution of the Standardisation Platform, UIC has interpreted in a very proactive way this context, also having the opportunity of exploiting its global dimension to profit of the technical cooperation among the members in a full system approach.

In this line the production of the International Railway Standards allows from one side to develop the common railway knowledge adding value to the praxis, the knowledge and

the experiences of the railway operating companies, according to a worldwide coherent and system approach, from the other side to be harmonised, in a closer and more efficient way, with the other recent standards and regulations both at regional and worldwide level.

The concept of International Railway Standards (IRSs) takes also into account some specific characteristics of the railway system like: the efficient amortization of the investments, the creation of sustainable transitions between system configurations in real operation, the valorisation of available developments.

Costs of the railways remain indeed quite high and we expect that a relevant reduction might be originated by a sound standardisation system, capable to profit of a global market, of an improved networking and of the natural advantages of the railway transport, being not the last its environmental respect.

For these reasons the UIC cluster approach to standardisation should strengthen and provide, in the respect of the existing mandatory regulations, the reference basic models of operation of the different kind of mission profiles.

For the continuous progress of our sector of activities we all need each other, we shall improve our methods of working, our commitment and our attention to the global and final results, we need to keep the good results of the past as well as the innovative possibilities of considering that our target are our customers and particularly the ones that today are not yet among them.

I wish a fruitful work to everybody.