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## **UIC, the worldwide railway organisation, publishes its 2030 vision, ‘Design a better future’, on the way to COP26**

*(29 October 2021, Paris)* This inspiring vision, created by UIC’s Global Rail Sustainability Taskforce, describes a future in which we are on track to decarbonise transport and have a thriving railway that has generated many benefits for society. UIC paints a picture of the end of this decade when, with the right action and investment, rail is the backbone of a sustainable mobility system. The vision includes a [call for action](#) to policymakers and world leaders to help design this better future.

UIC is recognised as an official observer NGO at the COP and will act as the global voice of the railways, highlighting the important contribution that rail can make in achieving carbon-neutral transport. UIC is running workshops on board the [climate train](#) tomorrow, 30 October, en route to Glasgow, where the delegates to the conference will be imagining ways of turning this vision into a reality.

In this optimistic scenario, the world is on track to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and the necessary action has been taken since this critical COP26 in Glasgow. High-speed rail and rail freight have doubled, passenger numbers have bounced back and have increased by 50%, and millions of new green jobs have been created. Diesel trains are rapidly being phased out and rail travel is the backbone of a sustainable mobility system. As a result, transport emissions, which in 2021 account for one quarter of all global emissions, have finally started to decrease – a scenario only possible with a thriving railway.

The story is based upon four key transformations:

1. **Transforming cities and connecting communities:** transport-oriented development, lighter trains and green city logistics creating liveable cities and connected communities
2. **Energy, technology and innovation:** rail takes a leading role in the race to zero carbon and the renewables revolution

3. **Intermodality and the seamless connection:** radical innovations in physical and digital connectivity with other modes for a door-to-door service
4. **Customer experience:** the cultural transformation of rail towards a more customer-focused service to meet the changing needs and behaviours of freight and passengers

Patrice Couchard, Chair of the Global Rail Sustainability Taskforce and Director General, Stations at Belgian Railways (SNCB) said, *“Sustainability lies at the heart of rail activities, today more than ever before. This new global vision sets out how improving the customer experience through seamless intermodality will be a key accelerator of the modal shift towards sustainable mobility.”*

Cécile Texier, Sustainability and CSR Vice-President at Alstom and member of the taskforce, said, *“We are happy to have been part of the ‘Design a better future’ vision developed by UIC. Rail – already the motorised transport mode with the lowest CO2 emissions – will continue to transform to bring even more sustainable value to all in the future.”*

Philip Turner, Head of Sustainability at UITP, said, *“More than ever before – and in the context of the global coronavirus pandemic – the SDGs need to be on the to-do list for people and the planet as the blueprint for success. Citizens, cities and the planet will be better off with more public transport. It improves our lives in so many ways and is the shot in the arm for our economies to fully rebound now and build us back better in the future.”*

UIC Director General François Davenne said, *“We are entering the decade of action for decarbonisation; this vision sets out how the transport paradigm must transform.”* He added, *“At the COP, I will be calling for the support of world leaders to back rail as an essential ingredient for a net zero carbon transport system.”*

### **Social media accounts:**

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/uic>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/496364/admin/>

YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIDqgE1vKPe0mkRcX7snJcg>

UIC will be present at a series of fringe and side events at COP26 in Glasgow. For more information, please visit [UIC at COP26 | UIC - International union of railways | Events](#)

Interviews are available by arrangement with members of the UIC delegation:

- François Davenne, UIC Director General
- Geert Pauwels, CEO of Lineas
- Alain Quinet, Executive Director, Strategy and Corporate Affairs at SNCF Réseau

- Mikaël Lemarchand, Director of Social, Territorial and Environmental Commitment (DESTE) and Director of the TOUS SNCF corporate project
- Frédéric Delorme, President, Rail Logistics Europe
- Tomasz Lachowicz, Director of the PKP office in Brussels and Head of Cabinet of the President of UIC
- Lucie Anderton, UIC Head of Sustainability

Link to resources

Vision document: <https://uic.org/IMG/pdf/uic-design-a-better-future-vision-of-rail-2030.pdf>

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