



INTERNATIONAL UNION  
OF RAILWAYS

**UIC Railway Noise Days – 23/24 February 2021**  
**Only the spoken word prevails**

Paris, 23 February 2021

**Dear colleagues and friends,**

Good morning, Welcome, it is my honour to address you today.

Allow me first to warmly welcome and thank the speakers joining us today from our important partners and members, for this, the first of two very interesting days focusing on Railway Noise. Today I am very pleased that we will hear from the European commission DG ENV and DG Move and representatives of the European Environment Agency, CER, SBB, SNCF Reseau and M+P.

It has been 2 years since I attended the last UIC Noise workshop organised by the Sustainability unit here in Paris, and now we find the opportunity to appeal to more audiences in this webinar series, which is held despite the conditions we live in today. We have received more than 300 members' registrations.

As the world railway association, UIC has been publishing the technical standards that have framed the modern railways since 1921. In addition, UIC has 118 working groups which work on a daily basis to develop technical solutions that meet the operational and commercial needs of end users and the other railway stakeholders. The topics covered by UIC sectors and working groups aim at collaborative and solution-oriented approaches that support members' main workstreams. This two-day event is a collaborative effort between two of these groups: The Noise and Vibration Sector (from within the sustainability Platform) and the Train Track Interaction Sector (from within the rail systems department). Through this joint working, the two sectors have co-curated a very rich and diverse content and invite you to make the most out of this time to focus on this important issue.

The UIC Noise Days are our first UIC led event celebrating the European Year of Rail. In this important year for rail, the UIC will shine a spotlight on the many benefits of rail transport and work together with you, our partners and members to find the innovation needed to continue to improve. These next two days will focus on the challenges and solutions for noise abatement.



## **2021 will be both the European Year of the Rail and UIC's centenary.**

Railways are unquestionably part of the solution to many of the societal problems we face today such as climate change, air quality, congestion and accessibility. To deliver the EU Green Deal targets and achieve net-zero mobility by 2050, UIC will continue to connect the global railway community with its members.

Rail should be to be the backbone of a transforming mobility system. The new Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy in Europe will only accelerate the railways' commitment to helping the society, doing business in a responsible way, and to continually improving its performance in providing safe working and environmentally-friendly mobility.

Sustainability is central to the mission of the UIC and vision for the railways. In this context, UIC will continue to play an important advocacy role in international platforms and will highlight the potential of railways as a clean, environment friendly and sustainable cornerstone of green transport systems.

European railways are well positioned to achieve the United Nations sustainable development goals. The sector remains committed to doing business in a responsible way, providing environmentally friendly passenger and freight transport as well as offering a safe working environment. In this way railways will work harder to maintain itself as a good neighbour and a responsible member of society in Europe and UIC will strive to bring this commitment of European railways to a global level.

To conclude, we are happy to raise the level of ambition and commitment of railways by organising this webinar series in UIC. I urge you to make the most of this opportunity, to build interactive new relationships and develop solutions that will catalyse progress on noise issues on railways.

And remember there is only one destination - a fully sustainable rail system contributing to a sustainable development of our planet.

Thank you for your kind attention and have a fruitful day and webinar series.

François DAVENNE