



## PRESS RELEASE nr.19 /2012

### **UIC holds its 80th General Assembly in Philadelphia in connection with UIC HIGHPSEED and Congress on High Speed Rail**

*Appointment of Vladimir Yakunin, President of Russian Railways, as UIC Chairman for 2013-2014 to be ratified in December*

*Focus on global railway standardisation: a selection of updated UIC Leaflets to be transformed into International Railway Standards (IRS)*

*California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) admitted as new Member of UIC*

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(Philadelphia, 11 July 2012) The 80th General Assembly of UIC, the worldwide railway association, was held on 9 July in Philadelphia, USA, in connection with the 8th Congress on High Speed Rail, "UIC HIGHSPEED", jointly organised with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and with the support of North American UIC Members, Federal Railroad Administration (US DoT), Amtrak, Association of American Railroads (AAR) and Via Rail Canada.

The General Assembly was chaired for the last time by Yoshio Ishida. Mr Ishida was recently promoted to Corporate Director of Japan Rail Group and is no longer in a position to chair UIC. Mr Satoshi Seino, Chairman of East Japan Railway Company (EJRC), will complete the mandate as UIC Chairman until December 2012. The Assembly unanimously paid tribute to Yoshio Ishida for his deep personal involvement in UIC and his strong commitment since March 2009 to increase UIC's unity, reputation and worldwide credibility.

The UIC Executive Board and the General Assembly debated the issue of UIC governance for the coming years. The General Assembly unanimously greeted Mr Vladimir Yakunin, President and CEO of Russian Railways (RZD) as the next UIC Chairman for the 2013-2014 term, subject to ratification at the next UIC General Assembly in December in Paris. Mr Mauro Moretti, CEO of Italian Railways FS Group, also accepted to fulfil a new mandate as well as Mr Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, whose mandate has been proposed for renewal for another two-year term starting April 2013.

Director-General Jean-Pierre Loubinoux detailed the activities developed by UIC working bodies in cooperation with its Members since the previous assembly.

One key focus was to reflect on UIC's management of the global financial crisis and slow economic recovery, in increasing the value of UIC's activities for Members, in being rigorous in management issues and drawing benefits from the dynamism of the railways in the 6 UIC regions. To ensure transparency all UIC activities are documented in the latest version of the UIC 2010-2013 Reference Document.

Mr Loubinoux gave an overview of signatures of new MoUs and agreements signed with, among others, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), AITD, the Coordinating Council on Transsiberian Transportation (CCTT), ongoing discussions with EBRD and cooperation agreed with the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA).

### **Standardisation, Research**

In the technical cooperation field, strong focus was placed on the progress of the railway standardisation issue, an issue with a potentially extremely high value for all UIC members at global level. Important work has been achieved by Members of the Standardisation Working Group (SWG) to propose the transformation of a number of important UIC Technical Leaflets into UIC International Railway Standards (IRS). This development will considerably increase the international recognition of UIC's assets and the UIC's credibility vis-à-vis Members, industries and standards bodies. In this context the General Assembly was informed of the progress of cooperation with ISO, in particular through the preparation of a Technical Cooperation Agreement (TCA) with ISO.

Another strong focus was placed on the progress of the activities of IRRB, the worldwide International Railway Research Board, chaired by Mr Boris Lapidus from RZD/VNIIZhT, in the field of global railway research. Particular mention should be made of the development of a very effective rail research portal which will be finalised in December, as well as the creation of the UIC Rail Innovation Awards which will be granted to winners in December 2012 for the 90th anniversary of UIC.

### **UIC management, appointments**

Concerning financial reports, the General Assembly unanimously approved the 2011 accounts and took note of the current financial situation and of the preliminary elements for the 2013 budget.

UIC General Assembly Members were informed of the cooperation progress in the 6 UIC regions – namely Africa, North and Latin America, Asia, Europe and Middle-East – by the respective regional assembly chairmen or their representatives, giving an overview of the dynamism of the regional cooperation groups within UIC.

The General Assembly was informed of the appointment of the Heads of UIC working bodies.

Michele Elia, RFI/FS Group as new chairman of the Rail System Forum, succeeding Zbigniew Szafranski, from PLK; Mr Lubomir Hradisky, from ZSSK, as new Chairman of the Security Platform, succeeding Moha Khadour from ONCF, with the Vice-Chairman being Mr Pradeep Kumar Mehta, Director General of the Railway Protection Force, Indian Railways. At UIC HQ Mr Hans Günther Kersten, from Deutsche Bahn was appointed new Director of the Rail System Department, succeeding Mr Emilio Maestrini who retired earlier this year.

## **New Members**

The UIC as a worldwide railway association continues its expansion in approving a number of new applications for membership:

-in North America the Californian High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA)

-in Europe BDZ PP from Bulgaria, NKH the Hungarian National Transport Authority, WestBahn, Austrian passenger operator, HS2, British promoter of High Speed Rail, Student Agency, Czech passenger operator

-in Asia/Europe FPC, Russian passenger operator, a subsidiary of Russian Railways (RZD)

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## **UIC, the worldwide trade association of railroads**

**Its core missions: promoting the development of rail transportation across the world, organising international cooperation between its members, contributing to the adoption of global railway standards**

### **Founding of UIC 90 years ago**

In the wave of two intergovernmental conferences held in Italy, the International Union of Railways (UIC) was founded in 1922, its headquarters based in Paris. The founding members comprised 46 railways from 27 countries across Europe, Middle-East, China and Japan. UIC became the worldwide non-profit trade association of railroads and currently has 200 members from 91 countries on all 5 continents. Members may be integrated railroads, rail operators, infrastructure managers or rail service providers such as rolling stock leasing companies, etc. UIC Members from North America are the Federal Railroad Administration (US DoT), the Association of American Railroads (AAR), Amtrak and VIA Rail Canada. UIC celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2012.

### **UIC's missions**

UIC's initial mission was to harmonise conditions for creating and operating railways at international level. Its missions were progressively extended and are currently focused on promoting rail as the most sustainable transportation mode across the world, enhancing international cooperation between its members – with a view to increasing competitiveness and interoperability – and contributing to building a coherent railway system through harmonised standards at global level. UIC is supporting all efforts made by its members to increase effectiveness, sustainability and profitability of rail transportation, for the benefit of customers and society as a whole.

To achieve its goals, UIC maintains and develops cooperation links and concludes agreements with a large number of institutions and international organisations, among them the United Nations and its specialised bodies, the World Bank, OECD, NATO, regional organisations, and transport associations such as APTA, USHSR, IHHA...

### **UIC Governance**

UIC is led by the General Assembly composed of Chairmen and CEOs of the 200 members. The guidelines for global activities are given by the UIC Executive Board, made up of 21 members with geographical representation. Cooperation activities at regional level are steered and managed within 6 UIC Regions (North and South America, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle-East), with each region chaired by a railway CEO from the region. Paris UIC headquarters is led by the UIC Director-General assisted by a board of Directors, 4 technical departments, 4 support departments, and 3 subsidiaries in charge of specific tasks. Technical cooperation activities are organised in the framework of professional bodies, forums and platforms, comprising member railway representatives in charge of Passenger (including High Speed), Freight, Rail System (including infrastructure, rolling stock, traffic management systems, etc.), Research, Safety, Security, Expertise Development,...

### **Main types of action**

The promotion of rail transportation through expertise and capacity-building, as well as knowledge sharing, are major objectives which UIC addresses through:

- Drafting technical standards, including interoperability standards for railways ("UIC Code", comprising 700 leaflets, constitutes a recognised reference worldwide),
- Promoting projects for the development in a systemic approach of all components of the railway system,
- Developing global and regional studies concerning railway corridors, multimodal transport links, etc.
- Research activities for increasing safety, optimising customer satisfaction, reducing costs,...
- Drafting and updating visions for all 6 UIC Regions (see above),
- Further developing advantages of railroads in terms of the most sustainable transportation mode,
- Organising the exchange of experience through international congresses, conferences, workshops on technical issues,
- Developing worldwide expertise training and human resource networking.

### **UIC's action in the field of High Speed Rail**

Main actions targeted at supporting the development of high speed rail systems across the globe include:

- Promoting the development of high speed rail systems under ideal conditions for member railways, customers and society,
- Supporting the railways which operate or plan high speed transportation in their relations with authorities, industry,
- Optimising the modal interfaces between high speed and regional transportation at stations as passenger hubs,
- Conducting studies on specific aspects of high speed (HSR and the environment, HSR and profitability, HSR in the city,...),
- Providing members with best practice, statistics on HSR,
- Regularly organising the UIC HIGHSPEED world congresses (8th World Congress in Philadelphia) as well as conferences with more technical focus,
- Organising training sessions/practicum

**For more information please visit the UIC website: [www.uic.org](http://www.uic.org)**