

*The spoken word alone prevails*

Speech given by Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director General  
at **UIC Energy Efficiency Days (EED) in Antwerp**

**Speech at Opening session, 17 June 2014**

Dear CEOs,  
Dear representatives of international organizations, European institutions and associations,  
Dear colleagues and friends,

First of all, after the excellent and friendly dinner that we shared yesterday evening in Antwerp, I would like to sincerely thank our hosts in Belgium, Jo Cornu, Director-General of SNCB, the national railway operator, and Luc Lallemand, Director-General of Infrabel, the rail infrastructure manager, for their kind invitation to hold this important UIC conference in Antwerp and for their hospitality in Belgium.

An opportunity for me also to sincerely thank Belgian Railways and Infrabel for all their highly appreciated involvement in UIC's international cooperation activities and projects. On behalf of UIC let me also express our very best thanks to Austrian Railways ÖBB as our Platinum sponsor for these UIC Energy Efficiency Days.

This 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the "UIC Energy Efficiency Days" will be a great success. More than 300 participants have already registered, representing 25 countries.

And I am particularly pleased to welcome at this conference delegates from Russia (in particular Alexey Averin representing our UIC Chairman Vladimir Yakunin), USA, Japan, China, Iran, and a number of regions, what demonstrates how UIC has become a worldwide reference for organizing exchange of information and best practice at global level.

I am equally pleased to welcome our partners and friends from leading international organizations and associations, first of all the International Energy Agency IEA, the

United Nations Environment Program UNEP, WRI, Directorate-Generals MOVE and CLIMA of the European Commission, CER and UNIFE, ...with whom we are committed to highlight the main advantages of rail transportation in the framework of sustainable transport policy objectives.

It has been 5 years since the last “UIC Energy Efficiency Days” were organized by SNCF in Tours, in France.

During the intervening time, much has happened. It is now time to review progress and plan steps ahead.

UIC itself has deeply evolved since 2009. The worldwide railway association is currently grouping 240 members from all 5 continents, among them integrated railway companies, rail operators, rail infrastructure managers and a number of railway authorities and stakeholders, covering the entire scope of actors contributing to the railway operating system.

Energy Efficiency is vital to the rail sector's future. It is essential for the development of sustainable transport systems, that was already highlighted yesterday evening. It is a determining factor of commercial success for railway companies. Even more, it is the foundation of the rail sector's environmental leadership.

The excellent video played at the start of today's conference brilliantly illustrated the sectors progress.

Together UIC and CER set ambitious targets for the European region. Targets for carbon emissions, energy efficiency and air pollution. To ensure transparency, accountability and credibility, UIC collate and publish the sector's performance against these targets, data directly provided by you, our members.

UIC are now developing rail sector targets for energy efficiency and carbon emissions at global level –taking inspiration from the UIC-CER targets for the European Region.

At global level we will add a target for modal shift, to emphasize the need for investment in energy efficient, low carbon transport. And to frame discussions with national governments and show the benefit of growing the rail sector.

Last month we received a message from UIC Secretary-General Ban-Ki-moon calling on UIC and our members set ambitious goals for reducing carbon emissions.

The proposed global targets represent an excellent response to the international railway community. They allow UIC to highlight your efficiency and potential of modal shift at global level.

UIC has a long history of international cooperation and railway expertise expertise (92 years !)

Also a long history of working to position rail as the backbone of energy efficient, sustainable transport systems.

When Heads of State and Ministers from across the globe assemble at the United Nations Climate Summit in September 2014 in New-York, energy efficiency will be at the heart of the message delivered by UIC.

Also an opportunity to pay tribute to the excellent cooperation with our institutional partners from United Nations, OECD, International Energy Agency, ITF. In this respect I am particularly happy to announce the publication next summer of the “3<sup>rd</sup> Handbook on Railway Energy Consumption and CO2 emissions” jointly prepared with the International Energy Agency IEA. It is now an established reference document, used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

I am also extremely happy to inform all delegates about the “Train to Paris” international campaign that UIC is preparing in view of the COP 21 negotiations on Climate Change due to take place in December 2015 in Paris. A high-profile campaign steered and coordinated by UIC in close cooperation with member railways and with the full support of Christiana Figueres, the Executive-Secretary of United Nations’ UNFCCC.

We all know that we have a strong performance but we also are all perfectly aware that it is important to keep improving and to retain our environmental leadership. There is a fierce competition from other sectors, we should note the high load factors that are now normal for budget airlines and impressive improvements in road vehicle fuel economy achieved over the past decade.

The rail sector must further innovate, also in developing effective partnerships with all actors involved, political stakeholders, international organizations, rail manufacturers. The rail sector must increasingly take advantage from progress initiated by other sectors, such as telecommunications, new materials, intelligent information systems, etc.

We all happy to work with UNIFE and other partners for the EU-funded MERLIN project. This promises a 10 % improvement in energy efficiency – a significant step forward. The MERLIN mid-term conference will be held as a parallel session later today.

We are also happy to welcome the ERESS forum tomorrow, held in parallel with a series of technical workshops. Energy metering and billing are essential for understanding and improving efficiency. It is important for the sector to engage fully with these topics.

In our role as the worldwide professional platform for technical cooperation, it is in UIC’s responsibility to promote innovation and new developments, to provide space for exchanging experience and best practice, and develop new standards that the sector needs. Let us mention in this context coordinating the railway operating community’s input to research programs such as Shift2Rail.

We hope that the 5<sup>th</sup> “UIC Energy Efficiency Days” will meet all expectations in this respect. The programme is designed to provide opportunities to network. I urge you to make the most of this opportunity, to build new relationships, exchange experience and develop the solutions that will catalyse progress.

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

Thank you very much.