

*The spoken word alone prevails*

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

**Speech at Official dinner on 16 June 2014**

Dear CEOs,  
Dear Representatives of international institutions,  
Dear colleagues and friends

Allow me first to warmly thank our hosts in Belgium, Jo Cornu, CEO of SNCB and Luc Lallemand, CEO of Infrabel, for their invitation to hold this important conference of the international railway calendar in the beautiful city of Antwerp, the first time in this extremely attractive city for a UIC conference of this importance in the recent years.

An opportunity for me also to thank more generally Belgian railways and rail infrastructure manager for their continuous and effective involvement in UIC's international cooperation activities.

On behalf of UIC let me also express our very best thanks to Austrian Railways ÖBB as our Platinum sponsor of this global conference.

These "UIC Energy Efficiency Days" which are going to officially start tomorrow morning, are the 5<sup>th</sup> of a series. It has been 5 years since the last event hosted by SNCF in Tours, during the intervening time, much has happened. It is now time to review progress and plan steps ahead.

It is difficult to overstate the importance of Energy Efficiency.

It is vital to the rail sector's future. It is essential for the development of sustainable transport systems. It is prerequisite for commercial success in the modern world.

More important, Energy Efficiency is the foundation of the rail sector's environmental leadership.

This advantage is recognized by the international community.

The world needs resource efficient transport to enable sustainable development

I am particularly pleased to announce that last month, we received a message from UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon calling on UIC and our members set ambitious goals for reducing carbon emissions.

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. The proposed global targets represent an excellent response to the call from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the international community. This allows UIC to highlight your efficiency and the potential of modal shift on the world stage.

The United Nations also recently announced the setting-up of a high-level Advisory Group for Sustainable Transport. This group will advise Secretary-General Ban-Ki-moon on transport policy.

UIC has set a strategic objective, to ensure that rail transport is properly represented and that the importance of energy efficient transport is properly understood.

UIC has a long history of international cooperation and expertise (92 years !)  
Also a long history of working to position rail as the backbone of energy efficient, sustainable transport systems.

The Energy Efficiency Days themselves on 17-19 June will provide a unique opportunity to review all the progress reached, making rail as an efficient, low carbon solution to the problem of climate change, and offering a response to the need for greater energy security.

Also an opportunity to pay tribute to excellent cooperation and synergies with our institutional partners from United nations, but also OECD, International Energy Agency. In this respect I will report tomorrow on the important work connected to 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.

I will be also extremely happy to inform all delegates tomorrow about the “Train to Paris” 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 association with the international railway community, with the full support of Christiana Figueres the Executive-Secretary of United Nations’ UNFCCC.

We know that we have a strong performance but we know that it is important to keep improving and to retain our environmental leadership.

The rail sector must further innovate, also in developing effective partnerships with all actors involved, political stakeholders, international organizations, rail manufacturers.

In our role as the worldwide professional platform for technical cooperation, it is in UIC’s responsibility to promote innovation and new developments, and to provide space for exchanging experience and best practice.

I hope that these 5<sup>th</sup> “UIC Energy Efficiency Days” will meet all expectations in this respect.

In thanking again our hosts SNCB and Infrabel for their excellent hospitality in Belgium, I am also delighted to express a warm welcome to our guests from international organizations and European associations as well a to all participants, in particular delegates from Russia, Asia and the Middle-East.

I hope that all of you will enjoy this evening and the conference in the next 3 days.  
Thank you very much.