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To participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> UIC Energy Efficiency Days Conference

Dear colleagues, welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> UIC Energy Efficiency Days Conference.

We are all aware that the production and consumption of energy is essential for the existence and development of humankind, but these processes inevitably have a negative impact on the environment.

We are faced with a global challenge – the pollution of the environment resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels, which discharges into the atmosphere millions of tons of exhaust gases, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, hydrocarbons and highly toxic lead compounds.

But there is also another side to the coin – all the energy sources currently in use are finite resources, and at this rate of consumption of coal, oil and gas, within a century the Earth's population will be embroiled in an energy crisis.

That is why the steps to protect the climate, to improve energy efficiency, to cut emissions of exhaust gases and to reduce noise levels, which were defined in the joint document produced by the UIC and the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER), entitled "Moving towards Sustainable Mobility: A strategy for 2030 and beyond for the European railway sector", are becoming increasingly important.



The range of topics and issues which the Conference is planning to discuss suggests that the decisions that will be taken will enable us to be more effective in implementing a policy of energy saving and increasing the energy efficiency of rail transport.

This will once again demonstrate to the global and European communities the environmental advantages of rail transport and the importance of its continued development.

I wish all of you taking part in the Conference successful work!

Yours sincerely,

Vladimir Yakunin  
President of the JSC "Russian Railways"