



PRESS RELEASE No. 11/2017

**UIC to launch 9th edition of ILCAD,
“International Level Crossing Awareness Day”,
on 2 June 2017 in Montreal (Canada)**

(Paris, 29 May 2017) This 2 June, the International Union of Railways (UIC) and a host of other rail industry stakeholders, road authorities, academics and international institutions will meet for the launch of the 9th edition of International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD: www.ilcad.org). Building on previous successes in Brussels, Warsaw, Paris, Geneva, Lisbon, Istanbul and Riga, this year Montreal (Canada) will play host to an international conference on safety at the road/rail interface, at an event co-organised by UIC and the Railway Association of Canada (RAC).

Every year, ILCAD partners select an overarching theme for the awareness campaign. This year, the message will focus on distraction, which is frequently the cause of collisions both on the roads and at the road/rail interface.

Human factors are the main cause of road collisions. The vast majority of collisions at level/grade crossings are caused by drivers not observing the highway code, whether deliberately or unintentionally. Driver errors can result from tiredness, stress, the consumption of pharmaceutical products or other substances, or simply from going too fast - but they can also be caused by the inappropriate use of electronic devices.

We live in an increasingly connected world (smartphones, smart watches, satnav, etc.), and drivers of cars or two-wheeled vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians often underestimate the risks they run when they use these whilst driving or walking - often in the very places where they should be paying most attention, specifically at level/grade crossings.

Drivers and other vulnerable users make and receive calls, send text messages, listen to music, use online chat services and social media or watch videos. Sometimes their vehicle becomes a second office.

Looking at your phone or listening to music reduces your ability to see and hear what is going on around you.

Most "hyperconnected" individuals are young (aged between 15 and 35).

These behaviours can lead to serious injuries and even death, and can also endanger others - not only other road users but also railway staff and passengers.

To raise awareness of the risk of such distractions amongst level crossing users, and specifically (but not exclusively) teenagers, UIC and Network Rail have co-produced a range of posters and a new video: www.ilcad.org.

Our accident-prevention message in 2017 is *"Making it safer together"* and is aimed at everyone.

Did you know?

- ♦ The 8th edition of ILCAD was held on 10 - 11 June 2016 in Riga (at LDz) and Tallinn (with OLE), and drew 120 participants and 18 international speakers to the launch conference.
- ♦ Over 40 countries are taking part in ILCAD 2017 <http://www.ilcad.org/Participants-2017.html>
- ♦ There are around 600,000 level/grade crossings in the world (213,000 in the USA, around 37,000 in Canada, and 114,580 in the 28 EU Member States as of 2014)
- ♦ In Europe, level/grade crossing accidents represent 26% of all significant railway accidents and account for 1% of road deaths versus 29% of railway accident fatalities. In 2015, there were 469 collisions at level crossings, with 296 fatalities (including 8 rail deaths) and 264 serious injuries (EUROSTAT data). For more information, click http://safetydb.uic.org/IMG/pdf/SDB_2016.pdf, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Rail_accident_fatalities_in_the_EU <http://www.era.europa.eu/Document-Register/Documents/SPR2014.pdf>
- ♦ Most people involved in level/grade crossing accidents live locally and use the crossing frequently.
- ♦ According to French government statistics on road safety:
 - Using a telephone while driving makes you 3 times more likely to have an accident!
 - Using a telephone while driving is a factor in 10 % of all accidents.
 - Texting while driving makes you 23 times more likely to have an accident.
 - FOMO ("Fear Of Missing Out") means the irrepressible urge to keep in touch with others all the time, stay up to speed with the latest news, and be contactable at any time. This fear of being cut off from the rest of the world renders smartphone users almost powerless to resist when their phone rings or vibrates, or when the screen lights up or a message appears. For 38% of French drivers, checking their smartphone when it makes a noise (call, text message, alert, email) is an automatic reflex. This percentage increases to 67% amongst under-35s. For further information: <http://www.securite-routiere.gouv.fr/conseils-pour-une-route-plus-sure/dossiers-thematiques/smartphone-au-volant-attention-danger/smartphone-au-volant-attention-danger/comprendre-le-danger>

For further information:

www.ilcad.org; <https://www.facebook.com/ilcad>; <http://twitter.com/#!/ilcad>
www.ilcad.org ; <https://twitter.com/uic>

www.uic.org
Youtube channel: <http://bit.ly/2mYhSPL>
  
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