Security

The 6th World Congress on Railway Security organised by UIC and Turkish Railways opens in Istanbul in the presence of 200 delegates

Looking at the benefits of strategic rail security issues from international benchmarking, exchange of best practices and institutional partnerships

More than 200 delegates from 30 countries representing all parts of the world are meeting on 23 – 25 June in Istanbul for the 6th World Congress on Railway Security (UIC Security 2010) jointly organised by UIC and Turkish Railways (TCDD). This leading international railway event brings together major players involved in rail and transport security issues: railway security managers, representatives of international organisations, rail supply industry, universities and research bodies.

The World Congress was opened today by speeches delivered by a number of high-level speakers including UIC Chairman Mr Yoshio Ishida and Director General Mr Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, the President and Chairman of Turkish Railways Mr Süleyman Karaman (also Chairman of the UIC Regional Assembly...
for the Middle-East) and Mr Mustapha Firat, Deputy Under Secretary of State for Transport. Mr Binali Yildirim, Turkish Minister of Transport and Communications welcomed the delegates in a live broadcast from Ankara.

All speakers have highlighted the strategic importance of maintaining a high-level of security which takes into account the impact on railway operation, quality of service, company results and on the image of rail transport. Turkish Minister Mr Yildirim insisted on the fact that “security is an international issue, even if routes are national and the best road is a road that you already know, meaning where you feel secure”. In this perspective international cooperation is an important goal to achieve, in particular for Turkey, a country with numerous international connections by land, sea and air. Mr Mustapha Firat, Deputy Under Secretary of State for Transport added that the priority for customers is to reach their destination in safe conditions. For Turkey the project of recreating the Silk Road includes the challenge of sustainable transport security.

According to UIC Chairman Yoshio Ishida, “it is extremely important to share common values between railways also in the security issue and to take advantage of Members’ experience to optimise the security level and limit recurring incidents”. He is happy to see that “UIC is now well re-organised and able to handle this global issue efficiently”.

Mr Süleyman Karaman, President and CEO of TCDD presented the ambitious plans to develop a highly-efficient railway network to benefit passengers (high speed) and freight customers (freight corridors) for Turkey taking into account all the challenges in terms of environment and security. He underlined the importance to implement adequate
Mr Süleyman Karaman, President and CEO of Turkish Railways (TCDD) polices at national level and share best experiences between countries.

UIC Director General Jean-Pierre Loubinoux is convinced that “railway companies have to invest even more energy time and resources in security issues – alongside its traditional activities – to avoid citizens, customers and staff facing disruption, threats or even danger in the course of their daily business”. He added: “we all have a responsibility as members of society and as responsible businessmen and women”. In this respect “cooperation and a deep-rooted partnership between all involved, both nationally and internationally play a fundamental role in making all parties work together and more efficiently”.

In order to reflect the growing importance of railway security the Security Division (led by Jacques Colliard, Head of Unit) has been integrated at UIC level into the new Fundamental Values Department also covering safety, sustainable development, research coordination and expertise development.

Mr Loubinoux warmly thanked Mr Tadeusz Kaczmarek, Chairman of the UIC Security Platform, for all the positive results achieved by the Platform under his chair. He announced that Mr Moha Khaddour, currently Vice Chairman, had been nominated as the new chairman of the Security Platform by UIC General Assembly held on 10 of June in Tokyo. He extended all the best wishes to the new chairman.

Mr Tadeusz Kaczmarek presented what he considers to be priorities for the international action at UIC level:

- Spread knowledge and experience,
- Promote a culture of security, prevention and education
- Develop efficient arguments in favour of investment,
- Increase efforts to mobilise people at worldwide, regional, national and local level
- Work towards a strategic proposal for the benefit of society and our companies.

More information at the end of the conference on Friday 25 June.

Safety

“Act safely at level crossings!”

International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) on 22 June 2010
On 22 June from 09:00 to 10:00, the UIC was invited to take part in the INFRABEL (one of the numerous ILCAD partners) press conference, held at a level crossing in Berchem-Sainte-Agathe (Brussels) where journalists from Belgian radio stations, TV and written press had the opportunity to ask questions to our INFRABEL colleagues. Volunteers distributed information leaflets on the dangers of level crossings called “le pire danger est celui qu’on ne voit pas venir” to the road users and pedestrians before crossing the LX. You can find more information on the Infrabel awareness campaign on their website dedicated to rail safety: http://www.securiteferroviaire.be/

After this very practical experience at a level crossing, the UIC, coordinator of the International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) campaign, organised jointly with the European Commission and many stakeholders from the road and rail sectors all around the world, was invited to participate in an international press conference that took place yesterday, 22 June, at the invitation of the EC at the Berleymont’s building from 11:15 to 12:00 in the EC’s press room. Journalists had access either in the press room or directly through a web connection.

Mr. Enrico Grillo Pasquarelli, Director, Inland Transport at DG MOVE, chaired and opened the conference. He welcomed and introduced the following speakers:

- 1. Herman de Croo, Chair of ETSC (European Transport Safety Council and former Belgian Transport Minister)
- 2. Anders Lundström, Head of the ERA Safety Unit (European Railway Agency)
- 3. Ines Ayala Sender, Deputy at the European Parliament
- 4. Eva Molnar, Director, Division of Transport at UN-ECE
5. Alan Davies, Chairman of ELCF (European Level Crossing Forum)
6. Mr. Luc Vansteenkiste, Director General, INFRABEL, representing Mr. Luc Lallemand, CEO of INFRABEL
7. Simon Fletcher, representing Mr. Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director General

Following their speeches the journalists and attendees had the opportunity to watch the EC financed video called “just in time” made for the ILCAD campaign and uploaded free of charge by more than 40 partners worldwide on their website and shown also during press conferences, in train stations and other public areas mainly in Europe.

A further, more detailed article on the press conference will follow this week. For further information please contact fonverne@uic.org ILCAD project coordinator Visit our dedicated website: www.ilcad.org

Documentation

Documentation Group
Visit to SNCB-Holding (Brussels)

The UIC Documentation Group, composed of representatives from railway documentation centres, libraries and archive centres, met in Brussels on 10 – 11 June 2010. Twelve member companies attended the meeting.

This year the Documentation Group Information Session aimed to produce an up-to-date overview of UIC member companies’ documentation centres, archives and libraries in order to take account of the changes that have occurred in recent years (restructuring, significant staff turnover, new strategic priorities, etc.)

The seminar and ensuing review of members’ experience gave the group an overview of company policies in terms of the way they manage their archives and documentation, how documentation units are organised and the challenges they currently face.

Mr Léo Carlier, Head of SNCB-Holding’s documentation centre, presented the organisation and tasks of the documentation centre, which was established in 1936. He thus highlighted the services colleagues could access via the company’s intranet and the projects in progress using the latest information distribution techniques such as RSS feeds and Wiki.
A technical visit to Belgium’s Permanent Representation to the European Commission was organised on 10 June. Mr Daniel Jacques (European Commission – DG Move) explained to participants the modus operandi and role of the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) in the implementation of European transport policy. He placed particular emphasis on the development of the legal framework for rail transport in the European Union and on interoperability issues.

The proceedings of this two-day meeting will be published during the fourth quarter of 2010.

For more information on the Documentation Group’s activities please contact Emmanuelle Boudier or Alexandra Lefebvre at the UIC Documentation Centre: doc@uic.org

News from UIC Members

Russia: Sapsan train service to start on Moscow – Nizhny Novgorod line on 30 July

A high-speed train service will be introduced on the Moscow – Nizhny Novgorod line on 30 July. By running Sapsan trains between Moscow and Nizhny Novgorod, Russian Railways is opening up the new high-speed route St Petersburg – Moscow – Nizhny Novgorod.

Railways is currently concluding work, which has been ongoing since 2006, to rebuild infrastructure on the Moscow – Nizhny Novgorod line to enable high-speed services.

In reconstructing the Moscow - Nizhny Novgorod line, the following work was carried out:

- tracks were developed at 17 stations;
- around 33 km of main tracks and station tracks were laid;
- electric signal boxes operating 269 track switches were modernized;
- 27 artificial structures were rebuilt;
- 139 km of overhead lines were re-installed;
- 11 crossings were reconstructed, with the creation of new signal boxes;
- 331 km of barriers were installed alongside the line.

In the past four years, Russian Railways has invested 9.49 billion rubles in the line’s reconstruction.

News from UIC Members

France, Spain and Portugal sign cooperation agreement to establish high speed network

French Secretary of State for Transport Dominique Bussereau, Spanish Development Minister José Blanco and Portuguese Minister of Public Works, Transport & Communications António Mendonça signed a declaration of intent on the European priority project “High Speed Rail Axis of Southwest Europe” at the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) Conference held on 8 and 9 June in Zaragoza.

The agreement should see more effective coordination of work to create a high speed network serving southwest Europe and in particular aims to accelerate work on cross-border sections.

The agreement highlights the importance of European funding in the project, seen as essential for the European Union’s economic and sustainable development. It was also signed by European Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas.

The transport ministers of the three countries stressed the need for maximum interoperability between the new infrastructures. They have asked SNCF, RENFE and CP to establish a single high speed operator between France, Spain and Portugal in the manner of Eurostar or Thalys, operations jointly offered by France, UK, the Benelux and Germany.

Next meetings scheduled

- 28 June 2010 - 2 July 2010: 7th Training Seminar on High Speed systems (Paris, UIC HQ)
- 30 June 2010 - 1 July 2010: ERIG #46 (Helsinki/Espoo)
- 1 July 2010: SAFETY PLATFORM STEERING GROUP VIENNA (ÖBB VIENNA)
- 1-2 July 2010: SET 15 (Paris UIC HQ)
- 5 July 2010: Re-establishing IRRB - Invitation to the IRRB meeting of 5th July (St Petersburg, Russia)
- 6 July 2010: RSF Sector Meeting "Rolling Stock" - 2nd Meeting (UIC 16, rue Jean Rey F-75015 Paris)
13 July 2010: TAF Steering Board Nr 16 (Brussels, UIC Office)

22 July 2010: SSMG SAFETY SYSTEM MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING (UIC HQ)

26-27 July 2010: SET 15 (Paris UIC HQ)

27-28 July 2010: Contact strip -wire interaction of Materials (LINZ (A))

6 September 2010: INESS Steering Board (Rome)

7 September 2010: Freight Steering Committee (Paris)

7-8 September 2010: Workshop on Assessment of Existing Bridges (Paris, UIC)

9 September 2010: SSMG SAFETY SYSTEM MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING IN BRUSSELS (BRUSSELS)

9 September 2010: OHSG

13 September 2010: Rail System Forum Steering Board (UIC, Headquarters)

14 September 2010: Commercial group (Paris)

14 September 2010: RSF Sector Meeting “Rolling Stock” - 3rd Meeting (UIC16, rue Jean ReyF-75015 Paris)

14 September 2010: SAFETY DATA BASE CORRESPONDENTS GROUP (UIC HQ)

15 September 2010: Joint meeting CG/TG + Technical Group (Paris)