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International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) on 07 June 2012

Key messages from ERA's executive director

"In recent years, on average of one person has been killed and close to one seriously injured at level crossings in Europe every day. In 2010, the latest year for which harmonized data on level crossing safety in Europe are available, 619 significant level crossing accidents occurred in the EU resulting in 359 fatalities and 327 serious injuries. The progress in reducing level crossing deaths has been slow compared to the progress achieved on EU roads.

The economic impact of these casualties is estimated at EUR 350 millions. Level crossing accidents represent 27% of all significant railway accidents and 28% of all fatalities on railway, suicides excluded.

It is indeed tempting to attribute the responsibility for a level crossing crash to the road user only. Yet, the in-depth analysis of level crossing accidents frequently reveals problems with visibility, design or operation of the level crossing. These are issues for which both road and rail infrastructure managers are responsible. Technical deficiencies may lead to a road user unintentionally entering a level crossing in a dangerous situation.

Multi-modal independent in-depth accident investigations allied with analytical economical approach to level crossing accidents can lead to a better understanding of possible solutions. They are equally important as improving responsible behaviour at level crossings."