



PRESS RELEASE

n° 203 - Buenos Aires 7 December

COP 10, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 6-17 December 2004



Keep Kyoto on track

UIC, UITP, and UNIFE brought the voices of rail and public transport to the 10th Conference of Parties (COP 10) organised by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to put focus on how to integrate transport policy and sustainable mobility in the climate change discussion.

5000 delegates, government representatives and NGOs from all over the world have converged in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the COP 10 meeting from December 6th to 17th. With the Kyoto Protocol entering into force in February 2005 due to the ratification of Russia, the 10th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has gained high visibility.

On the opening day it was highlighted at the UITP, UIC and UNIFE official side event "*Keep Kyoto on track*" that the good performance of rail and public transport needs to be brought into the climate change discussions, as modal shift to these energy efficient and sustainable modes already can provide a short and medium term solution to reducing CO₂ emissions.

Emissions from the transport sector are still growing faster than any other sector and the majority comes from road transport. Due to the close link between economic growth and increasing transport activities it is a challenge to integrate transport into the climate change discussions.

Harald Diaz-Bone from the UNFCCC pointed out during the *Keep Kyoto on track* side event that Finland is the only Annex 1 country that has managed to decouple economic growth and CO₂-emissions for transport. This has been achieved through a combination of policies and measures to integrate transport and environment - a success story in this most difficult sector.

"The *Keep Kyoto on track* side event uniquely marks transport as an important issue on the climate change agenda. Cross-sectorial approaches and political leadership is the way forward for rail and public transport to fulfil its role at the backbone of sustainable transport systems in developed as well as in developing countries" Lloyd Wright (GTZ) added. But he also pointed out that there were little sustainable transport projects being supported by the World Bank or by the Kyoto mechanisms.

"As much as the World Bank would like to support sustainable mobility, we have to encourage governments to bring forward transport projects for financing. Rail and public transport has to be an integrated part of national developing programmes for sustainable development" Lead Transport Economist Robin Carruthers replied at the side event panel discussion.

It is more than likely that transport will not be excluded from the next round of Kyoto targets post 2012 and transport is foreseen in the EU Emission Trading Scheme by 2008 underpinning the need for investment and incentives for changing behaviour.

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