



UNION INTERNATIONALE
DES CHEMINS DE FER

INTERNATIONALER
EISENBahnVERBAND

INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS

UIC Activities Report 2003/2004

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our pleasure to enclose a copy of the UIC 2003/2004 activities report, covering the latest events at the organisation of worldwide cooperation for railway companies. Today UIC brings together more than 170 companies from five continents with the principal objective of harmonising operating conditions and promoting the development of rail transport through all its projects.

In 2003/2004, UIC and its members dedicated a large part of their work to increasing interoperability, a key factor in the success of international rail transport. Activities across several sectors are involved in achieving interoperability: technology, operations, security, regulations and, increasingly, human factors linked to international operations. This work is proving its value today in the context of European Union enlargement and the development of a continent-wide transport system.

Other key cooperation projects aim to improve the quality of international passenger and freight services, optimise infrastructure management conditions and support research programmes which will pave the way for future progress in railway technology and operations.

UIC and its members are also particularly attentive to environmental considerations and sustainable development. Numerous projects relating to such subjects as energy consumption and reduction of pollution and noise emissions will further enhance the advantages held by the railways as an ecological transport mode.

UIC recorded very positive results in 2003/2004 with the implementation of its programme of world activities. The development of international railway corridors for freight constitutes one of the most promising projects. Partners involved alongside the railways, such as the maritime transport sector and combined transport operators, are already showing a keen interest. Other areas of global cooperation include research projects, management and training.

At the beginning of 2004 and at the request of its members, UIC embarked on an extensive reform process signalling a historic turning point in the life of our organisation. The objective is to adapt the missions of UIC and its way of working in line with the rapid developments affecting the railway sector today, including market liberalisation and the arrival of new operators, the advent of competition between railways, the creation of the European Railway Agency and the challenges of interoperability. An overhaul of the tasks and conditions involved in the management of priority projects will enable UIC to play a key role in future progress, vital to the success of the rail sector in the years ahead. The "New UIC" will be a reality from 2005 onwards.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Weibel', written in a cursive style.

Benedikt WEIBEL
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philippe Roumeguere', written in a cursive style.

Philippe ROUMEGUERE
Chief Executive