



UNION INTERNATIONALE
DES CHEMINS DE FER

INTERNATIONALER
EISENBAHNVERBAND

INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS

Press release n° 238

The UIC General Assembly in Montreal approves its new world governance structure

UIC regional assemblies, with a large degree of autonomy will foster the development of specific cooperation activities of direct interest to members in the same region

(Paris, 13 June 2006.) The International Union of Railways (UIC) brought together its executive bodies in Montreal, Canada, on 7 and 8 June, following on from the 7th World Congress on Railway Research (WCRR 2006) which was also being staged in Montreal from 4 to 7 June. The main meetings were those of the UIC Executive Board and the General Assembly, the two statutory bodies chaired by *Mr Benedikt Weibel*, and the World Executive Council (chaired by *Mr Prakash Batra*, President of Indian Railways) responsible for spearheading the UIC programme of world activities.

One of the key decisions taken by the General Assembly was to approve the membership - or return to the UIC fold - of Russian railways (RZD) as active member (see press release 237 of the same day).

During its meeting in Montreal, the General Assembly approved the new UIC world governance structure. Following the adoption of the 'Delhi Declaration' by the UIC statutory bodies in October 2005, the aim of this meeting was to agree on the structure and modus operandi for a world-level UIC, with UIC acting a global trade association, whilst also allowing decentralised cooperation tailored to the expectations and needs of members from each region.

Under the new governance structure, UIC will work

- at global level (as a world federation) under the guidance of the General Assembly and the Executive Board (whose membership has been increased and balanced between the different railway regions in the world),
- at regional level: 5 railway "regions" are being or will shortly be created (Asia, Africa, Europe, Middle East, Americas). With a large degree of autonomy and with permanent support on hand from a regional "support unit", these assemblies will aim to promote the development of regional railway projects, which respond to needs that have been clearly identified by members from the region and which contribute to the "global" objectives laid down in the UIC world programme of activities.

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New structure and appointments

The General Assembly also approved the creation of a *Security Platform* which will be a place for discussions on best practice and partnerships between the main stakeholders from the field of railway security (security heads, railway police and police forces, international institutions) covering a wide range of topics.

At the meetings in Montreal, the General Assembly also ratified several appointments: *Mr Mauro Moretti*, Chief Executive of RFI (Rete Ferroviaria Italiana) from the Ferrovie dello Stato (FS) Group, as new Chairman of the UIC Infrastructure Forum (and successor to *Mr Roland Heinisch*, Chairman of the UIC "Safety" and "ERTMS" platforms), the 2-year extension of *Gerard Dalton's* contract, CIE, as Infrastructure Director at UIC Headquarters and the appointment of *Mr Mirosław Kanclerz*, PKP, as Central and Eastern European Manager within the UIC Railway Undertakings Department.

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Press release no. 237

UIC almost complete as Russian Railways return as active members

UIC reaffirms its role as the worldwide organisation for the railway sector.

(Paris / Saint-Petersburg, 13 June 2006) Gathered in Montreal, Canada, on Thursday 7 June under the chairmanship of Benedikt Weibel, the General Assembly of the International Union of Railways (UIC) unanimously approved the accession of the Russian Railways (RZD) as a new active member. The international "railway family" is now almost complete with the return of Russian Railways – previously the Railways of the Soviet Union – who were among the founding members of UIC (in 1922) before loosening their ties with the organisation in the context of international tensions in 1949.

The General Assembly in Montreal was addressed by the President of Russian Railways, *Mr Vladimir Yakunin*, who set out the company's current context and development strategies. Russian Railways undeniably constitute one of the major players on the international railway stage with a network of more than 85,000 km, a workforce in excess of 1.2 million, 1.3 billion passengers carried every year and an annual volume of 1,665 billion tonne-km (representing 80% of freight transport excluding pipeline transport and 41% as a proportion of total freight transport in the Russian Federation).

By submitting this official request for UIC membership – or rather a return to UIC – the RZD President underscored the essential role to be played by Russian Railways, regarding in particular the development of trade between Europe and Asia: *"the potential of Russian Railways must be exploited to link Europe to Asia"* and *"Russian Railways are a key element for an East-West railway system"*.

In the words of Chairman Weibel, *"this is an historic moment for our international organisation"*. *"The return of the Russian Railways to UIC is a prime example of the spirit of the October 2005 "Delhi Declaration" which set out to transform UIC into a real worldwide organisation and adapt remits and operating modes accordingly"*. On account of its geographical location straddling Europe and Asia, the scale of its network and numerous agreements with other stakeholders in the transport sector, RZD is set to play a key role in numerous UIC projects at world level.

The "New UIC" : globalisation and efficiency

With the Russian Federation, UIC comprises henceforth 171 members from 5 continents: 74 active members (railways of Europe, the Middle East, the Maghreb, South Africa, Kazakhstan, India, Pakistan, China, Japan and Korea), 60 associate members (railways of Asia, Africa, America and Australia) and 37 affiliate members (railway service providers, sleeping car, catering and public transport companies, etc.).

The UIC mission consists in promoting rail transport at world level and helping its member railways to meet all the current challenges of mobility and sustainable development. Its main objectives are to:

- promote the exchange of good practice (benchmarking),*
- help members to gain new markets and develop new business areas,*
- propose new ways of improving the technical, economic and environmental performance of the railways*
- achieve interoperability and create railway standards at world level,*
- develop centres of excellence (technology and research, management, etc.).*

UIC has been chaired since January 2003 by Mr Benedikt Weibel, Chief Executive Officer of Swiss Railways (SBB). The Vice-Chairmen are Mr Prakash Batra, Chairman of Indian Railways (IR), Aad Veenman, NS, CER Chairman and Bert Klerk, ProRail, EIM Chairman. Mr Luc Aliadière has been UIC Chief Executive since July 2005 with Mr Vipin Sharma as Deputy Chief Executive.

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