



**UIC at the U.N Conference of Parties (COP 19) on climate change in Warsaw, Poland:
To advocate greater investment in rail as the backbone of sustainable low-carbon transport systems**

(Paris, 20 November 2013) On 16 November, UIC, the worldwide railway association, jointly organised a side event in partnership with Embarq (NGO working to promote Sustainable Transport) held at the COP19 venue, the Polish National Stadium. The side event title was “*Sustainable Transport & Low Emission Development Strategy, mitigation & adaptation to climate change*”. An introduction to the role of rail in low-carbon transport was provided by Willy Bontinck (SNCB and Chairman of the UIC Energy, Environment & Sustainability Platform), the event also featured presentations by:

- Mr Szymon Grabowski – Director of Infrastructure, PKP Intercity S.A. on reducing carbon emission through the procurement of energy efficient rolling stock
- Mrs Ewa Makosz – Director of Environment Protection, PKP PLK S.A. on the risks posed by extreme weather events and climate change adaptation.
- Mr Jean-François Gagne – Head of Energy Technology Policy Division International Energy Agency (IEA) on Global transport outlook to 2050: opportunities and costs in the transport sector under low carbon scenarios

The event was attended by representatives from a range of transport organisations, NGOs and professionals working on climate change solutions. UIC used the event to demonstrate that investment in rail can help to de-carbonise transport and also to show the steps taken by the sector to adapt to climate change. It concluded with an engaging question and answer session.

Transport Day 2013

On 17 November, UIC Director General Jean-Pierre Loubinoux represented the rail sector during the Plenary Session of Transport Day 2013. UIC was invited to speak on behalf of the rail sector by the co-organisers; the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport SloCat and the Bridging the Gap initiative.

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in his message to Transport Day, called for “*new ways of moving goods and people. I have called a Climate Summit in September 2014 to raise political will and catalyse concrete action on all climate-related issues, including sustainable transport*”. The Secretary General commented that the \$175 billion voluntary commitment of the world’s eight largest development banks at Rio+20 “*has helped to make sustainable transport a significant feature of discussions on the post-2015 development agenda*”.

Rachel Kyte, World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development, commented that "*The arguments for low-carbon transport are strong. The challenge is finance. And that's where the international community can help to scale up sustainable transport. She added "Efficient, safer, and low-carbon transportation is essential for addressing climate change. We owe it to ourselves and our children to get this right."*

Mr Loubinoux, UIC Director General, used his appearance to explain how modal shift to rail transport can help to mitigate Climate Change, illustrating this point with key statistics, including;

- Rail transport is responsible for just 3% of transport CO2 emissions but moves 9% of people and goods, in stark contrast to the road sector which is responsible for 72% share of transport emissions but moves just 34% of people and goods.
- At world level, between 2000-2010, the rail sector has reduced CO2 per passenger-km by 32%, and per freight tonne-km by 18%.
- Within the EU the railways now consume 21% of electricity from renewable sources, significantly exceeding the 2020 target of 10%: this compares favourably to the transport sector as a whole which is at just 5%.

UIC launched the 2013 edition of the UIC-IEA Railway Handbook on Energy Consumption and CO2 Emissions at Transport Day. This book presents compelling evidence, validated by the International Energy Agency, of the rail sector's low carbon performance.

Interesting presentations were given on railway investment projects in South Africa and Ethiopia as solutions to climate change, to be part funded by the UNFCCC as National Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs).

The audience at Transport Day included Nikhil Seth, Director Sustainable Development Division, UN-DESA & Donald Cooper, Coordinator of the Mitigation, Data and Analysis Programme UNFCCC in addition to numerous Development Banks and representatives of the Sustainable Transport Community.

CONTACT

UIC Sustainable Development Department: craven@uic.org

Media: UIC Communications Department: com@uic.org

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. UIC launched the 2nd edition of the Railway Handbook on "Energy Consumption and CO2 Emissions of the World Railway Sector" at Transport Day and COP19. This book is available on line www.uic.org/spip.php?article3193 and is published in partnership

with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the world's most authoritative source for energy statistics. The aim of the Handbook is to provide institutions, associations and decision-makers with robust data as the foundation on which to build the greening of our future transport choices. It includes facts and figures such as the following:

- The transport sector in 2010 was responsible for about 23% of total CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion in the world
- In 2010, road was responsible for 72% of total CO₂ emissions caused by the transport sector globally, transporting 34% of people and goods. Railway moved 9% of passengers and freight with an impact of 3% of total transport CO₂ emissions.
- Worldwide, CO₂ emissions per passenger-km went down by 32% in the period 2000-2010; CO₂ emissions per freight tonne-km shrunk by 18% in the same period.
- In the European Union, railways have already largely exceeded the target of 10% of renewables in the energy mix: they are at 18% in 2010 while the transport sector as a whole is at 5%.