

Special Delhi meetings

First meeting of the UIC Executive Board held in Delhi as part of the new UIC governance:

The new decision making body chaired by UIC Chairman JP Batra (Indian Railways) with Anne-Marie Idrac (SNCF) as Vice Chairperson, brings together 21 railway CEOs representing all regions of the World.

The Executive Board approved the new organisation structure aiming to enhance the role of UIC as the global railway organisation

UIC creates a series of 'Global Competence centres' to support members' efforts to increase efficiency and competitiveness

The new UIC Executive Board set up as part of the new UIC governance held its first meeting in Delhi, India, on 21 March, before the opening of the 1st UIC / IR Global Rail Freight Conference (22 - 24 March).

The new UIC decision making body is responsible for defining and steering UIC policy and action at global level. The Executive Board is led by UIC Chairman *Jay Prakash Batra*, Chairman of the Board of Indian Railways (IR) with Mrs. *Anne-Marie Idrac*, President of French national Railways (SNCF) as Vice Chairperson. It comprises a total of 21 members, all of whom are Presidents / CEOs representing the railways from the different world regions: 4 representatives from Asia (India, China, Korea, Japan), 3 from North and South America (USA, Canada, Argentina), 4 from Africa (Gabon, Ivory Coast, South Africa, Tunisia), 4 from Europe (Germany, France, Netherlands, Poland), 3 from the Middle East (Iran, Syria, Turkey), 1 from Russia (RZD), 1 from the Central Asia (Kazakhstan) and 1 from Oceania (Australia).



From left to right: Vipin Sharma, UIC Deputy Chief Executive; JP Batra (IR), UIC Chairman; Anne-Marie Idrac (SNCF), Vice-Chairperson of UIC; Luc Aliadière, UIC Chief Executive.



UIC railway cooperation activities carried out at Global level include:

- global activities which are of potential benefit to all UIC members (key issues decided upon by the Executive Board),
- specific activities developed at regional level at the initiative of the six UIC Regional Assemblies (Asia, Africa, Europe, Middle East, North and South America) and coordinated by the Executive Board in order to implement the UIC global strategy.

During the Delhi meeting, the Chairmen of the UIC Regional Assemblies presented the progress made in setting up the structures (Assembly, permanent office) and the start of practical work in the different regions. Following Chairmen addressed the UIC Executive Committee: *Mr. Lee Chul* for Asia, *Mr. Siyabonga Gama* for Africa, *Mr. Süleyman Karaman* for Middle East, *Mrs. Anne-Marie Idrac* on behalf of *Hartmut Mehdorn* for Europe and *Mr. Paul Côté* for North America.

The Executive Board took note and discussed progress made regarding a series of key global dimension projects. Key projects / activities include:

- positioning of rail transport as a key link in the global logistics chain through development of intercontinental / international corridors in different parts of the world, with special emphasis on Europe-Asia and China-India routes. President of Russian Railways *Mr. Vladimir Yakunin* should play a leading role to realise this goal;
- in order to capitalise on the opportunity offered by major economic expansion in Asia, Central and Eastern Europe as well as in other regions, UIC Investments Forums will be organised to attract new partners from private investment banks, large pension funds, etc. Initial action will be concentrated in Asia;
- to achieve maximum possible synergies in the field of railway research through the development of the working of the International Railway Research Board (IRRB) under the chairmanship of *Mr. Yoshio Ishida*, Vice-Chairman of East Japan Railways (EJR).

Another key issue consists in promoting the worldwide application of new technologies (railway technologies, communications, IT, etc.) by adopting an increasingly global approach from the outset of technical and research projects. Further convergence between technological trends across the world will also be sought via the UIC Competence Centre “*New Technologies*”. Target results include the emergence of world railway standards, increased interoperability, economies of scale and a more competitive market, as well as cost optimisation.



In this context the UIC Executive Board called for the organisation of an international workshop on ERTMS (the standard traffic management system) with the objective of identifying current development trends for train control systems across the world and seeking convergences.

The development of high speed rail on several continents represents another opportunity for the rail sector to highlight its competitive advantage in respect of competing modes, both in terms of market efficiency and in terms of environmental friendliness and sustainable development (energy security, CO2 targets, etc.). With its extensive experience in this field, UIC will support its members whenever necessary on all issues relating to the development of high speed rail systems. A specific global 'competence centre' dedicated to high speed will bear witness to UIC's leadership in this area.

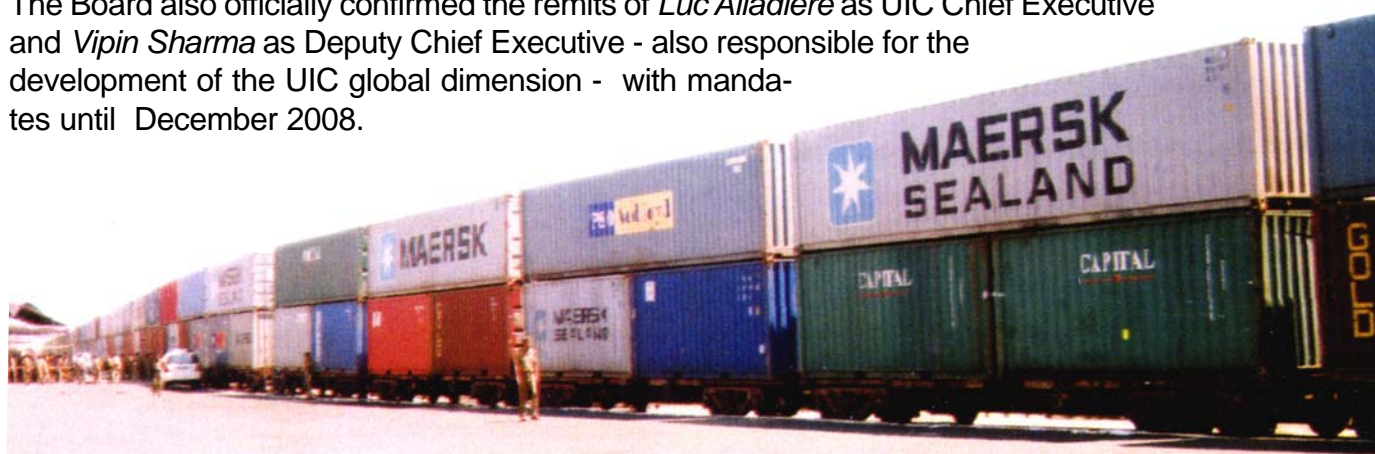
In addition, the UIC Executive Board insisted on the importance of monitoring UIC global activities:

- Safety (to enlarge the scope of activities related to railway safety, taking into account the experience of the UIC Safety Platform),
- Security,
- Knowledge management (to better respond to members' needs resulting from globalisation trends),
- Human resource management: a conference of Human Resource Directors will be organised to capitalise on the results of the leadership training activities of IRSMI, the UIC International Railway Strategic Management Institute, the foundation stone of which was unveiled on 22 March in Delhi (IRSMI courses are organised in conjunction by leading international business schools such as HEC in France, Vadodara, India, and one rotating place, Johannesburg being the one in 2007);
- the Use of languages in international railway operations,
- Sustainable development (illustration of the advantages of the rail mode, CDM projects to obtain carbon credits for railway projects, etc.),
- Communications: a project for mass media communications is to be presented with the objective of highlighting the advantages of rail transport for market and society, by targeting an extensive audience worldwide via TV channels.

At the request of Mr *Vladimir Yakunin*, President of Russian Railways, the Executive Board approved the examination of the potential use of UIC provisions for Quality control and Certification of products as an alternative to ISO international standards.

The UIC Executive Board formally approved the new organisation chart reflecting the global orientation of UIC activities and projects and the creation of the global 'competence centres'.

The Board also officially confirmed the remits of *Luc Aliadière* as UIC Chief Executive and *Vipin Sharma* as Deputy Chief Executive - also responsible for the development of the UIC global dimension - with mandates until December 2008.



The UIC Regional Assembly for Asia meets in Delhi: new steps towards a Trans-Asian Railway system

Mr. Lee Chul, President of Korean Railways, unanimously elected as Chairman, the CEOs of the Kazakhstan and Malaysian Railways elected Vice-Chairmen.

JSC Russian Railways join the Asian Regional Assembly - The Permanent Office of the UIC Regional Assembly for Asia located in Delhi - A Training centre for members of UIC Asia in Korea.

The UIC Regional Assembly for Asia (following on from the 1st Asian Railway Summit held in Seoul, Korea, in October 2006), was held at the invitation of Indian Railways in Delhi on 21st March together with a series of key UIC meetings (Executive Board) and the UIC Global Rail Freight Conference (22-24 March).

The UIC Regional Assembly for Asia has been set up as part of the new UIC world governance adopted by members at the last General Assembly. UIC as the World organisation for the rail sector will henceforth develop its activities at two different levels:

- global activities decided upon by the new UIC Executive Board (21 members representing all parts of the world),
- activities developed within 6 Regional Assemblies (Asia, Africa, Middle East, Europe, North and South America) to respond to specific needs of geographical groups of railways.

The first meeting of the UIC Regional Assembly for Asia was opened by UIC Chairman *Jay Prakash Batra*, Indian Railways Board Chairman, assisted for UIC by *Luc Aliadière*, Chief Executive, *Vipin Sharma*, Deputy Chief Executive, and *Gerard Dalton*, Infrastructure Director, Coordinator for Asia at UIC HQ.

15 railways or State authorities represented the following countries at this meeting: Bhutan, China, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Australia, together with representatives of UN ESCAP (*John Moon*, Chief of Transport Policy) and ASEAN railways.



Mr Vladimir Yakunin, President of JSC Russian Railways (on the right), and the RZD delegation.



In his opening address, UIC Chairman *JP Batra* underlined the importance and high value of the cooperative work to be developed within the Asian regional framework with strong support from UIC Headquarters in Paris. These activities should support current efforts by all Asian railways aiming to develop their businesses and draw maximum benefit from the economic growth in the region (e.g. in China, India, Russia).

A first decision was the creation of the Permanent Office of the UIC Regional Assembly for Asia in Delhi with logistics support from Indian Railways and staff from other Asian railways to follow in future.

Among important decisions, Mr. *JP Batra* welcomed JSC Russian Railways and their President Mr. *Vladimir Yakunin* as a new full member of the UIC Regional Assembly for Asia. President *Yakunin* stressed that Russian Railways have an essential role to play as a 'natural landbridge' between Asia and Europe and between the production and consumption centres, and are fully committed to the assembly's activities.

After approval of the Regional Assembly's Internal Regulations, Mr. *Lee Chul*, President of Korean Railways, Korail, was unanimously elected Chairman of the UIC Regional Assembly for Asia. He will be assisted by a 1st Vice Chairman, Mr. *Atamkulov*, CEO of Kazakhstan Railways, and a 2nd Vice Chairman, Mr. *Dato Mohd Salleh*, Managing Director of Malaysian Railways (KTM).

Inaugurating his chairmanship, President *Lee Chul* recommended a step by step approach aiming to reinforce cooperation between Asian companies in all fields of railway activity. Among the priorities he cited progress in the development of an interconnected Trans-Asian-Railway system (TAR) (e.g. re-connection of the two 'Koreas', connection with the Trans-Siberian railway, etc.), the development of interoperability to facilitate cross border operations and reinforced cooperation in human resource management and training.

In this regard, the establishment of the 'International Railway Training Centre for UIC Asia (IRaTCA) at the initiative of Vietnam Railways (VNR) with the support of the Korean Railways (Korail) and approved during the Delhi meeting, constitutes the first tangible achievement of the new UIC Regional Assembly for Asia and should pave the way for increased cooperation and improved interoperability between railways in the region. The IRaTCA Training Centre will be located in Korail's Training Centre from 2008 to 2012 before moving to its own premises.



Mr. Jay Prakash Batra, (IR), UIC Chairman.



Mr Lee Chul, President of Korean Railways, Korail, was unanimously elected Chairman of the UIC Regional Assembly for Asia.

UIC Chief Executive *Luc Aliadière* underlined that quick progress had been made in the implementation of the UIC World governance, in particular thanks to the strong leadership of Chairman *JP Batra*. It is now essential for this Regional Assembly to define a practical action plan enabling to act quickly and meet all challenges facing rail transport in a professional manner. The Regional Assembly will deliver strategies, reports and analyses, aiming to develop business for the benefit of all railways in Asia. Work in 2007 should primarily comprise the finalisation of the work programme and the corresponding budget.

UIC Deputy Chief Executive *Vipin Sharma*, who is also responsible for developing UIC's global dimension, underscored the remarkable progress already achieved in the development of Inter-Asia railway cooperation and the next steps to be taken. These activities are monitored in close cooperation by the Asian Regional Assembly and UIC HQ in Paris and include:

- the finalisation of the "2025 Vision and Strategy for the development of Asian Railways",
- business cases for the development of China - India links and other international rail links within the Asian region,
- further progress on the intercontinental intermodal corridor linking America to Europe and to South East Asia ("NEW Corridor"),
- cooperation with UN ESCAP (for the development of the Trans-Asia Railway -TAR-network),
- promotion of new opportunities for financing railway expansion (e.g. InvestForums to attract private financial partners and offer new alternatives for funding),
- developing synergies in training issues (start of the IRaTCA in Korea, etc.),
- elaboration of action plans on specific issues: high speed, safety, interoperability, meter gauge,
- increasing UIC membership and solidarity among the railways in the region.

On behalf of the United Nations' ESCAP, Mr. *John Moon*, Chief of Transport Policy, gave a comprehensive overview of the political and institutional framework of the development of the Trans-Asia Railway (TAR) network. The TAR International Agreement aims to ensure the financing and construction of missing links in this promising railway network. 12 countries have already signed this Agreement and Mr. Batra reported that the Government of India had given the green light for signature.



Mr Vipin Sharma, UIC Deputy Chief Executive, is also responsible for developing UIC's global dimension.



Mr. John Moon, Chief of Transport Policy, United Nations ESCAP.



The representative of Malaysian Railways (KTM), Mr. *Hilmi Mohamad*, speaking on behalf of the group of ASEAN railways described the key aspects of increased cooperation in the fields of human resource management and training, business development, restructuring of railway companies and activities and facilitation of cross-border transport (interoperability and standards), etc.

In conclusion, Mr. *JP Batra* thanked the leadership of Mr *Lee Chul* of Korean Railways and stressed that through UIC vision 2025 for each of the 6 regions it would be possible for UIC as a global organisation to develop coherent strategies for the development of railways across the world.

Chairman of the Regional Assembly, Mr. *Lee Chul*, invited all CEOs and colleagues from the Asian Assembly to attend the 8th World Congress on Railway Research (WCRR) to be held next year in Seoul, Korea (18-22 May 2008). UIC is one of the “historical” WCRR organisational partners.

Thereafter, RZD President *Vladimir Yakunin* extended a warm invitation to all Asian railway CEOs to Moscow for the UIC General Assembly (18 June 2007) and subsequent RailTech-Russia conference and exhibition (18-22 June 2007).

For more information please contact Paul Véron, UIC Communications Dir.,: veron@uic.asso.fr.

World Freight

The 1st Global Rail Freight Conference (GRFC) organised by UIC and Indian Railways in Delhi met all expectations, paving the way towards the successful expansion of rail freight across the world

Over 350 participants from 41 countries attended the first major international event dedicated to the development of rail freight services worldwide.

Rail must be fully integrated into the global logistics chain on intercontinental/international corridors.

Alliances and partnerships with shipping lines and other transport players are a key factor in increasing rail transport's share of world trade growth.

The future expansion of international rail freight services will require long-term investments in dedicated infrastructure and facilities.



Foundation Stone laying ceremony for the "International Railway Strategic Management Institute" in Delhi on 22 March in presence of Honorable Indian Railways Minister Mr Lalu Prasad.

The 1st Global Rail Freight Conference (GRFC) jointly organised by UIC and Indian Railways (IR) took place in Delhi, India, on 22 – 24 March 2007. This first major international railway event dedicated to the perspectives for growth of rail freight services across the world met all the organisers' and attendees' expectations. It attracted over 350 participants from 41 countries, including politicians and decision-makers in charge of transport issues, representatives of international organisations (UN, World Bank etc.) and trade associations, high-level representatives from railways, intermodal operators and shipping lines as well as representatives of the international media.

The GRFC conference was officially inaugurated on 22 March in the presence of Mr. *Lalu Prasad*, Indian Minister of Railways, Mr. *Montek Singh Ahluwalia*, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Government of India, Mr. *Naranbhai J. Rathwa*, Indian Minister of State for Railways, Mr. *J.P. Batra*, Chairman of the Indian Railways Board and UIC Chairman, Mrs. *Anne-Marie Idrac*, President of French National Railways (SNCF) and UIC Vice-Chairperson, Mr. *Luc Aliadière*, UIC Chief Executive, and Mr. *Vipin Sharma*, Deputy Chief Executive, who is also responsible for developing UIC's global dimension.

As part of the opening ceremony, the Indian Minister of Railways Mr. *Lalu Prasad* conducted the Foundation Stone laying ceremony for the International Railway Strategic Management Institute (IRSMI), the UIC's leadership training institute whose permanent seat will be in Delhi.

The Global Rail Freight Conference provided an unprecedented opportunity for all kinds of stakeholders (railways, logistic chain operators, shipping lines, freight forwarders, trade associations and international organisations) to discuss all the issues which will contribute to the successful development of rail freight services across the world. UIC ensured a diverse and interesting conference by organising an array of speakers selected for their work in their respective specialist fields. A series of panels with high-level participants (CEOs and top executives from the railway and transport industry) were dedicated to the following topics:

- Global transport supply chain issues in the 21st century (with representatives from India, USA, Korea, Finland, France and Poland);
- Best practices and successful global rail freight projects (speakers from China, Russia, USA, European Intermodal Association (EIA));
- Shipper and customer perspectives (speakers from Australia, India, USA, CMA CGM/RailLink, COSCO logistics etc.);
- Global rail freight expansion needs (with speakers from South Africa (Spoornet) India, Australia (BHP West), UIC, the European Shippers' Council etc.);
- Research, development and new technologies (speakers from India, Sweden, Russia and USA);
- Capital investments, project financing and the legal framework (panellists from USA including the World Bank, India, Japan (Mitsui)).



From left to right: Vladimir Yakunin (RZD), Lee Chul (Korail), Mukul Mathur (IR).



From left to right: Mr Ahluwalia, Mr Sharma, Mr Prasad, Mrs Idrac, Mr Rathwa, Mr Aliadière.

The programme also included a series of technical visits organised by Indian Railways to the Tughlakabad Diesel Loco Shed, Wagon Care Centre and Inland Container Depot.

The conclusions drawn from the congress were presented at the closing session by *J.P. Batra*, UIC Chairman, *Luc Aliadière*, UIC Chief Executive and *Vipin Sharma*, UIC Deputy Chief Executive.

The main conclusions and strategic goals in ensuring the rapid growth and commercial success of rail transport in world trade can be summarised as follows:

- rail transport cannot be limited to a transport function, but must be fully integrated into the global logistics chain. The future growth of railways' business in freight transport across the world will be facilitated by alliances and partnerships with all the major players in the global logistics chain: ports, shipping lines, container transport operators, freight forwarders, industries and companies involved in world trade;
- the development of intercontinental/inter-national railway (or intermodal) corridors corresponding to current growth patterns in world trade will constitute the basis for a successful globally-oriented rail freight network: particular priorities will be the Asia-Europe corridors (including UIC's "N.E.W." intermodal corridor linking North America with Europe and China), the China-India corridor and in Asia, the Trans-Asian Railway (T.A.R.) promoted by the United Nations' ESCAP Commission;
- an important step will be the planning of dedicated freight networks or freight corridors in order to increase the priority accorded to these transport services as opposed to passenger transport (good examples are the planned dedicated freight corridors in India or the Priority Freight Network being investigated as part of the Trans-European Network);
- it is essential to attract new types of partners to finance the construction, modernisation and operation of railways on these future corridors: UIC will support all its members' efforts in attracting private partners, banks and other funds to invest in the railway business (creation of UIC Investors' Forums, starting in Asia);



Lighting the lamps: 1- Mr L. Prasad 2- Mr JP. Batra
3- Mr NJ. Rathwa



Lighting the lamps: Mr L. Aliadière.



Lighting the lamps: Mr V. Sharma.

-achieving technical and operational interoperability is essential in order to offer an efficient and competitive rail freight network with a global reach. In this context UIC is playing a leading role in order to develop common standards and unified operating rules. Cooperation among railways at regional level (in the new UIC's Regional Assemblies) should contribute to faster unification and interoperability.

Before closing, *Vipin Sharma* (UIC) informed delegates that this successful 1st GRFC would be followed by a second event to be held in China in 2010. The web site (www.grfc2007.org) will remain active between the two congresses.

For more information please contact Laetitia Granger-Meimand: granger@uic.asso.fr

International Management

International Railway Strategic Management Institute (IRSMI): Work on physical infrastructure starts

Following the decision taken by the 21st UIC World Executive Council to impart business leadership skills to the future railway managers, process of setting up of a unique world class Institute namely International Railway Strategic Management Institute (IRSMI) was started in 2005. The institute will have the best of academic excellence through its alliances with the leading business schools and the industry experience through the industry leaders. Under a close partnership with the renowned institute HEC, Paris IRSMI successfully launched the Senior Managers Programme since 2005 itself.



In an excellent example of its contribution to the international co operation, Government of India through Ministry of Railways has agreed to provide world class infrastructure for IRSMI in Delhi.

Hon. Minister of Indian Railways, Mr *Lalu Prasad* officially laid the foundation stone of the IRSMI institute building on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the 1st UIC Global Rail Freight Conference held in New Delhi on 22nd March 2007. The institute premises will come on stream in the early part of 2010.

The occasion was also blessed by the presence of Mr. *Montok Singh Ahluwalia*, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Government of India and the Minister of State for Railways Government of India Mr. *Rathwa*. Also present were the UIC Chair and Vice Chair person Mr. *J.P Batra*, Chairman Indian Railway Board, and Mrs *A.M Idrac*, President of SNCF, along with their colleagues forming the UIC Executive Board and the members of the UIC Asian Regional Assembly.

The IRSMI building will be located in the Diplomatic enclave which forms the beautiful green part of New Delhi with all the facilities in close proximity. The facility will have the planning input from a team of leading architects, educational institute HEC, Paris and the Cap Gemini Academy located near Paris (Les Fontaines).

While the permanent infrastructure is in progress, IRSMI is continuing to build up its core competencies through the improvements in already proven program for the Senior Managers which commenced in 2005.

The Senior Managers Program 2007, will open its courses next 7th May 2007 in Paris, at HEC-HQ in Jouy and Josas (France) and will have three modules of two weeks each in Paris, Johannesburg and Vadodara.

HEC, Paris module will be dedicated to the changing global business environment and the strategies for competitive success. The second module will be held by mid September in South Africa in the premises of Esselenpark (Spoornet Training centre) on the theme of control, organisation and managing people and change and the third module will be held in Vadodara (Indian Railways training centre) on January 2008 on the theme of marketing, managing customer value and finance.

The 2007 cohort of participants is composed of railways from all the continents, which will give an occasion for the students to share their views and benchmark their ways of workings in different fields.

The applications are still open up to mid April.

Please visit the UIC website: www.uic.asso.fr or contact Mrs Laetitia Granger Meimand: granger@uic.asso.fr

Next meetings scheduled

April

03-04 April 2007: Study Group DSSG (Paris)

03 April 2007: Technology and Research Steering Body (Paris)

03 April 2007: Infrastructure Forum – Steering Committee (Paris)

04-05 April 2007: ERA SG 14-1 Certification of Maintenance Workshops

12-13 April 2007: ERIM Investment Workshop - Western Countries (Paris)
12 April 2007: INESS (Paris)
12 April 2007: Chairmen of Forums and Platforms (Paris)
16-17 April 2007: World Health Organisation Pan European Programme: Transport and Environment (Geneva)
17-19 April 2007: ERIM Investment Workshop - Eastern Countries (Paris)
17 April 2007: Décomptes fret (RCF2) (Paris)
18 April 2007: Coordination Group (London)
18-20 April 2007: 2nd International Seminar on Safety and Security of Railway Operations (Rabat)
18 April 2007: Signalling Panel of Experts (Paris)
18 April 2007: INNOTRACK Technical Coordination group (London)
18-19 April 2007: TRAINER Project (Bratislava)
19 April 2007: High Speed Plenary group (Paris)
19 April 2007: 33rd Euro-Interlocking Steering Committee (Paris)
23-27 April 2007: SIAFI 2007 - Session I (Paris)
24 April 2007: Europtirails Conference (Paris)
24 April 2007: INESS (Brussels)
24 April 2007: GT 5 RIC (Paris)
25 April 2007: 2nd meeting of Expert Network "Sustainable Mobility" of EES Platform (Paris)
26 April 2007: ERTMS Regional (Paris)
26 April 2007: Freight Forum – Workshop (Paris)
26 April 2007: Freight Steering Committee (Paris)
26 April 2007: SSMG - System Safety Management Group (Brussels)
26 April 2007: Core Group Environment (Berlin)
26-27 April 2007: Railenergy SP3
27 April 2007: Freight Forum (Paris)

A Complete schedule of UIC meetings (as well as statutory meetings, events, conferences) is available through the UIC website: <http://www.uic.asso.fr/baseinfo/reunion/> or from the Home page : "Schedule of meetings".

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Thank you for your comments and suggestions.
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