

## Freight / Combined Transport

### DIOMIS: workshop on combined transport in Europe and in the United States of America

On 10 March, in the context of the DIOMIS project, a workshop on combined transport in Europe and in the United States of America was organised in Paris with representatives of the combined transport industry.



The session was opened by Mr *Luc Aliadière*, UIC Chief Executive, who reminded the audience of the importance for the UIC of this concrete strategic project which is an example of successful partnership between key stakeholders such as UIRR, Europlatforms, Infrastructure Managers (IMs) and Railway Undertakings (RUs) aiming at developing transport in the most efficient manner. His words were echoed by Mr *Oliver Sellnick*, UIC Railway Undertakings Director, who indicated that now was the time to plan and pave the way for the future of combined transport.

The results of the study were presented by Mr *Eric Peetermans*, Chairman of the UIC Combined Transport Group, and Mr *Mertel* from KombiConsult who highlighted, amongst other things, the outstanding growth performance of combined transport in 2007 and who stated that, to date, there are no reasons for thinking that the growth targets for 2015 determined by DIOMIS won't be met. Although the current economic climate may delay growth projections for combined transport for a few months or a couple of years at most, combined transport is still the growth segment of rail freight and the fundamentals of its growth are still there.



The day was moderated by Mr *John Lutz*, UIC Senior Advisor and former Senior Manager at Railinc. Strong of his own US experience and drawing on the presentations made by Messrs Molcan (CD Cargo), Grisone (Hupac), Galloni (FS Logistica), Erlinger (RNE) Radstake (DVB Bank) and Müller (DUSS / DB Netz), he initiated a debate about infrastructure capacity utilisation and the intermodal business in Europe and in the US.

Concluding from the discussion he stated that the two models could not simply be transposed but that they could learn from one another. He also highlighted the key themes of the day: the importance for the industry to work in partnership with all the stakeholders, the need to improve productivity and to work on standards and processes.

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## International Rail Freight

### 3rd International Rail Freight Conference (Prague, 4-6 March)

The 3rd International Rail Freight Conference, organised by JERID Company and under the auspices of UIC (OSJD - Organisation for Co-operation of Railways and IBS - Community of European Rail Forwarders were also partners of the event) took place in Prague (Czech Republic) from 4 to 6 March. 150 participants, from over 20 different countries were present at the Conference. The main topic was the rail cargo transport between Asia and Europe.

UIC was represented by Mr *Oliver Sellnick*, Director of Railway Undertakings Department, who opened the conference and chaired the first two sections. During the discussions moderated by Mr *Oliver Sellnick*, representatives from OSJD, FIATA, IBS and Ministry of the Railways of the Peoples Republic of China had their presentations.



Mr *Sellnick* presented the role of UIC in the process of corridors planning and how UIC can help its Members on the Asia – Europe corridors. Then Mr *Stig Nerdal*, Advisor of UIC Deputy Chief Executive, made a speech related to the economical aspects of rail transport versus sea and road.

Representatives of both European and Asian railways and forward companies informed participants about their existing experience with the transcontinental transport as well as future projects they are currently working on.

The Conference met with a great success on the part of speakers as well as participants. All of them appreciated high expertness of presentations in the particular sessions and possibility to meet with top managers from line of business of railway freight transportation from many European and Asian countries.



## Regional Activities / Africa

### "Africa Railways Vision 2025" presented at the Railways & Harbour Conference (Cape Town, South Africa, 4-6 March)

"UIC Africa" participated to the Railways & Harbour conference and exhibition which took place in Cape Town, South Africa, from 4 to 6 March. Mr *Stanley Mkoko*, UIC Africa representative, was the first presenter to open the conference. He presented the 'African Railways Vision 2025', which was welcomed by the delegates. Many suppliers and other companies acknowledge the work that UIC is doing especially on the railways.



The challenges lie more on how to execute the job at stake, for example the issue of connectivity that impact the marketing and linking of rail / road. The trading from each country can not be done or possible if proper infrastructure is not in place.

Funding is one of the key problems that UIC together with the other organisation, needs to fixed is the funding on the developing countries. In a nutshell the focus needs to address infrastructure, connectivity for both rail / road, investment on new rolling-stock and technology. The following points needs to be address as well.

- Transport Investment planning is not developed or emphasised enough, thereby not allowing reliable knowledge to be made of the magnitude of national funds that would be dedicated for the transport sector in the future.
- Coordination between various sources of funding (national, regional & international) is not fully optimised, and available budgets are not always targeted towards priority projects.

Mr *Mkoko* explained in a nutshell how every one can play the role in solving the problems and implement the "UIC vision 2025 for Africa" which will have a positive impact for all stakeholders.

The railway production in Africa over the last years has shown volatile output for several countries. For many countries the market share has declined, their assets have steadily deteriorated, their quality of service has reduced, and they are in many instances only a minor contributor to solving the transport challenges in Africa. These important transport links are struggling to meet growing demand, keep up with technological change, facing competition from other modes and competing for finance with other important public priorities. Africa have several competitive challenges like political and economical instability, growing population, trade barriers, poverty, natural disasters, lack of infrastructure investments and integration, trade imbalance, monopolies and lack of management procedures.

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# Regional Activities / Asia

## Meeting with the Malaysian Railways (KTMB)

KTMB (Malaysian Railways), which is presently having a rail network of 2,233 kilometers, is focusing on implementation of 329 kilometer electrified double track project between Padang Besar and Ipoh. With commissioning of the project by 2012, KTMB will have enough capacity to expand its freight and passenger services across the Thai landbridge. KTMB's revenue from its freight and commuter services is consistently increasing in last three years. Container business which is contributing 54% of its freight revenue has a good growth potential considering that KTMB has the benefit of serving Port Klang and port of Tanjung Pelepas, two of the top twenty ports in Asia.



Mr. ABD Radzak ABD Malek, Managing Director of KTMB(right ) along with Mr. Mukul Saran Mahtur, Head of UIC Asia Regional Unit, New Delhi.

The commuter services which are dependent on 50 EMU sets are planned to be upgraded under the ninth Malaysia Plan. Presently maintenance of these old sets poses maintenance problems affecting their availability.

During the meeting with Mr. *Mukul Saran Mahtur*, Head of UIC Asia Regional Unit, in New Delhi in March, Mr. *ABD Radzak ABD Malek*, Managing Director of KTMB stressed that network expansion, improving internal capability and enhancing human resource potential are major focus areas. According to Mr. *Malek*, UIC can play a major role in development of KTMB Railway Academy at Batu Gajah, which has been setup in November 2008 as part of the decision taken by the CEO's of the ASEAN railways. He saw a good opportunity for development of railway engineering courses in Kuala Lumpur along with Kula Lumpur University, KTMB and UIC jointly and invited global companies providing world class maintenance for its EMU trains.

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# International Training

## **SIAFI Europe 2009 (International Rail Activities Information Session): First session 20 to 24 April 2009 / Second session 28 September to 02 October 2009**

European railways are developing at a very fast rate and the environment in which they operate today has become increasingly complex and competitive. This development, imposed by new market regulations and strongly supported by national and international authorities, calls for specific adaptation on the part of railway companies.

It is their responsibility to adapt to the new landscape and, to this end, to provide their managers with the tools needed to meet the new challenges. This constitutes a key challenge for the future of the railways.

Railway companies need competent, European minded managers who have a sharp awareness of the new context of the transport sector and its environment, extending beyond their areas of expertise, and who are able to identify the stakeholders involved.

Attending the SIAFI Europe is the opportunity to obtain a comprehensive overview of strategic issues for railways in Europe and is also an ideal platform for managers to discuss the "hot topics" of their area of work with colleagues from all European countries and all railway sectors, as well as to get a practical view of what international cooperation is about.

Both the important benchmarking opportunity within the European railway industry that the program offers and the active networking that fosters a truly European learning experience give us confidence in the value that this program can bring to both your staff and organization.

Further information can be downloaded at: <http://www.uic.asso.fr/siafieurope/>  
Deadline for registration is postponed till 04 of April 2009.

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## News from UIC Members

### **Russia: Sapsan High Speed Train Completes First Trial Voyage from St.Petersburg to Moscow**

The President of Russian Railways, Mr *Vladimir Yakunin*, took part in the trials. The train has arrived in Moscow for testing on the Experimental Ring in Scherbinka. *"On its first trial run from St.Petersburg to Moscow Sapsan reached a speed of 180 km/hour. It could have traveled faster, but this is not allowed by the technical regulations of the trials. The train is most impressive, with its new, comfortable carriages, new services and new menu"*, said



*Vladimir Yakunin* at a press conference held on Sunday to mark the train's arrival at Leningradskiy Station.

Mr *Vladimir Yakunin* emphasized that investment in infrastructure, including high-speed infrastructure, is one way of tackling the crisis.

On 28 February 2009 the new High Speed electric Sapsan train made its track debut with a trip between Lyuban and Metallostroy stations (Oktyabrsk Railway - a branch of RZD) at a speed of 140 km/hour. This trial run was used to test the trains braking system, which couldn't be tested in Germany because there is no 1520 mm-gauge railway line there.

The trials are scheduled to continue until December. At the end of 2009 the train will carry out its first scheduled service on the St.Petersburg – Moscow route - a distance that Sapsan should cover in 3 hours and 45 minutes.

## **Spain: Interoperable freight traffic between Spain and Portugal**

Adif and Refer (Portuguese National Railway Network) have planned the first direct and interoperable railway freight transport service, without changing locomotive at the frontier. This traffic has been carried out jointly by Comsa Rail Transport and the Portuguese company Takargo Rail.

The train left Espartal Station (Zaragoza) and is due to arrive at Alverca Station (Lisbon) today afternoon. Its load capacity has been established in 1,150 tons and its traction is carried out by a Euro 4000 locomotive, equipped with Asfa and Portuguese-Convel, manufactured by Vossloh and owned by Comsa Rail Transport.



This Spanish-Portuguese railway traffic runs under one international train number of origin and destination. It is scheduled to cover the 1,191 kilometer train path on the Zaragoza-Guadalajara-Medina del Campo-Salamanca-Fuentes de Oñoro-Portuguese Frontier-Lisbon route, twice a week.

With this railway service, the first interoperable freight traffic between both countries is made possible since the liberalization of the sector, increasing international railway transport competitiveness.

This path, planned by Adif and Refer, connects Zaragoza and Lisbon in order to meet the joint demand of Comsa Rail Transport and Takargo Rail, railway companies that have an alliance to cover freight transport between Spain and Portugal.

Furthermore, Adif is working on the opening into service of a path between Madrid Abroñigal and Lisbon Port that will enable to extend the scope of this project.

Up to now, direct freight traffic between Spain and Portugal was not possible in spite of having the same gauge. From this project on, the first traffic with standardized locomotive in both countries will be in service. Railway Interoperability seeks benefits in infrastructure, rolling stock and the operating rules that enable the continuous rail traffic at the borders between countries in the European network.

# Next meetings scheduled

## March 2009

*18-20 March 2009: 3rd International Seminar on security and safety operations (Marrakech)*

*18 March 2009: Railenergy SP 4 Workshop - NRG-Components (Berlin)*

*19 March 2009: Business Excellence Board 1 (Paris)*

*19 March 2009: SSMG - SAFETY SYSTEM MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING (Paris)*

*25 March 2009: PTR Steering Group (Paris)*

*25-31 March 2009: International Festival on train, metro & cinema (Paris)*

*26 March 2009: PTR Plenary meeting (Paris)*

*30 March 2009: UIC European Regional Assembly (Paris)*

*30 March 2009: UIC Executive Board (Paris)*

*31 March 2009: UIC General Assembly (Paris)*

*31 March – 02 April 2009: UIC World ERTMS Conference (Malaga)*

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

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Communications Department, 17th March 2009

Thank you for your comments and suggestions.

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