

## **Bratislava 8th World Security Congress 24 – 26 October 2012**

### **Message from Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director-General**

Good morning,

I wanted to send you this modern – though perhaps impersonal – message to **highlight the importance of this 8th UIC World Security Congress**, and to ask the authorities honouring us with their presence at this session, the Slovakian Railways and Mr Pavel Gabor, who have worked with the UIC teams to organise this event, and all the speakers and participants, who I'm sure will make this event a success, to excuse my absence in Bratislava today, 25 October 2012.

I will be attending another congress which is being held jointly by UIC and one of its members, also in connection with UIC's Fundamental Values tasks, which sit alongside our more technical activities. Life consists of choices and I am attending the other congress not out of lack of interest for security issues but simply due to a diary clash. Counter-intuitive as it may seem, I want to add that this clash of dates is itself a sign that UIC is effective and that its teams and members are busy and active: the increase in such events promoting the exchange of best practice, learning from one another, and in-depth work on what have become issues of strategic importance, falls under our remit to protect the railway system and to showcase its advantages for the economy and society.

#### **For me this congress is important on at least three levels:**

- This is the 8th UIC World Security Congress since the first edition was held in Madrid in autumn 2000, where it was all about convincing the heads of railways to take an interest in security, to not continue tolerating criminal acts and misconduct and relying on law enforcement authorities to solve these problems or avoid them happening again. It is unfortunately a fact of life that no event or any activity of any magnitude can be organised or developed without including a security strategy. The work undertaken within the platform meets the needs of the members, more and more of whom are participating in the various activities and working groups established at their request.
- **This is an important moment for the platform since its leadership is set to evolve.** I wish to extend my warmest thanks to Mr Moha Khaddour from ONCF for having agreed to oversee the restructuring of the Security Platform by serving as Vice-Chair alongside Mr Tadeusz Kaczmarek from 2008, then as its Chair since 2010. The platform, if I may say, is on the right track and will further develop its role supporting railway activities and UIC members and I am certain that its new Chairman Mr Lubomir Hradisky will run it most effectively. I would also like to welcome the arrival of Mr Pradeer Mehta, Director-General of the Indian Railway Protection Force, as Vice-Chairman of the platform. The

global dimension has thus been accounted for and the security issues at Indian Railways are mind blowing if we try to compare them with some of the situations in Europe.

- **Finally, this congress is focused on human factors and their role in security**, a topic which is addressed by one of the platform's permanent groups under the responsibility of Russian Railways (RZD). Placing people at the heart of our concerns, and using technology and regulations to support our business – to help staff in charge of security-related duties – seems vital to me.

Having spoken of the Security Platform in terms of the past, of this 8th Congress as the present, we also have to think of the future and prepare for it. It cannot be stressed enough that future challenges cannot be met with past or present solutions. The members of the UIC Security team and Platform are involved in various research projects and it seems crucial to develop this further.

The Congress was preceded by the Protectrail Mid-Term Conference which includes seven UIC members (other than UIC) and involves collaboration between the rail sector and security equipment manufacturers. This project is particularly important and we are looking forward to seeing the final demonstrations in Poland in 2013.

Other research projects have either been launched or are underway, and I wish to highlight that even though they need financial input from each party, they represent a particularly useful investment to develop the effectiveness of security strategies that we have to put in place.

I do not wish to delay your work any longer and once again I convey my regret that I am unable to be with you today. I wish you every success for this Congress and once again thank Slovakian Railways for having organised this event with us.

I am sure that this opportunity for debate, dialogue, exchange and analysis will be useful to each and every one of you; we can only make progress by working together.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.