



RESTRAIL Final conference

18 September 2014, UIC HQ

Opening speech: Mr. Jean Pierre Loubinoux, Director General UIC

Dear participants

Time flies too fast!

I clearly remember the kick-off meeting held here on 8 November 2011 and the mid-term conference on 12 June 2013, and I am speaking today at the end of a process that has enabled players from very different backgrounds to work together on both a societal and technical issue, namely trespassing and suicides in the railways, thanks to considerable EU financing, without which nothing like this would have been possible.

In 2011 I stressed the need for UIC to be restructured around its technical departments, and in particular, as far as we are concerned, the importance of the Fundamental Values department led by Jerzy Wisniewski, and its transverse role in supporting the traditional activities of the railways with a view to safeguarding its mode of operation and developing its advantages in relation to other modes of transport.

In 2013 I highlighted the professionalism of all the teams involved in the project and the quality of relations that were established between the all the project stakeholders – an absolute prerequisite for effective work to be conducted within the railways and its environment.

As Director General of UIC, the coordinator of the project, I would like first of all, before going into the subject in depth, to thank all those who have been involved in this project. The results achieved are particularly interesting and effective for the stakeholders concerned. They take the shape of a toolbox, enabling everyone to find the various analyses and answers in accordance with their needs, in order to develop a tailored strategy and to reduce both the number of trespasses and suicides in the railways – not least because of the human tragedy it represents – and also to mitigate the consequences of these actions for railway operators so that they can perform their primary function.

Today, as you will discuss during the course of the day, the RESTRAIL project has successfully fulfilled its objectives:

- The various members of the consortium were able to work together in a spirit of collaboration to share their respective competences in their work on this human, societal and technical issue.
- A large number of general prevention measures as well as technical and human measures in the area have been analysed, assessed and classified in accordance with their possible roll-out.
- The most valuable measures were subject to field testing in order to confirm their applicability and to verify their effectiveness.
- All the measures are henceforth available to decision-makers in a toolbox, which provides railway end-users with the best available help when deciding to implement measures that are properly tailored to their social, institutional and professional context, insofar as there cannot be a one-size-fits-all solution, or in any case no single European solution that can be developed in the same way for all Member States.
- UIC has fully played its role in serving its members by getting the most interested railway companies on the subject to work together and by making the jointly-developed results available in an appropriate form to the railway sector.

However all this is now a thing of the past as the project is coming to an end, and I would also like us to look to the future. Given the importance of the subject, we cannot simply be content with the work that has already been carried out – even if its quality should be underlined. There is no doubt that progress needs to be made beyond RESTRAIL in the strict sense in developing new solutions, as in the field of security, and indeed safety, nothing can ever be taken for granted. A link certainly needs to be made with the issue of level crossings, which was intentionally not part of the project, but which is a very relevant safety issue and one which UIC is also very committed to along with various institutional partners, and in particular within the framework of the annual “ILCAD International Level Crossing Awareness Day”.

I, for my part, will support the initiatives in this area, and we now just need to find the most appropriate framework in which to develop them both in Europe and on a global scale.

Thank you to everyone for the work already accomplished and for your continued commitment to this societal issue. I wish you every success for this final conference of the RESTRAIL project, the results of which will be widely distributed to as many players and stakeholders as possible.