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SAFETY AND SECURITY IN RAILWAY TRANSPORT

UIC Security organization and activity

Transmitted by the International Union of Railways (UIC)¹

Since March 2003, UIC has created a security mission which is working in close relationship with two different groups, each of which meet specific objectives even though, for a large part, they have the same members:

- the UIC Ad hoc security group is a small group of railway managers working to improve cohesion in railway company security policies. It deals with sensitive subjects such as terrorism, is developing a partnership with transport authorities in the United States, analyses the consequences on transport security of the gradual opening up of the rail freight transport market and subsequently of the rail passenger market, conducts studies relating to the organization of inspection measures at European Union border stations in the framework of the Schengen acquis. A representative of DG TREN (Security Directorate) of the European Commission takes part in its work.

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- the UIC COLPOFER special group (Cooperation among Railway Police Forces) is a group of operational managers responsible for security in the railways, be they from railway companies (operators and infrastructure managers) or national authorities. It has 35 members representing 23 countries. The mix of its members enables it to provide particularly apt expertise, to develop a working relationship with national authorities on a continuous basis and also particularly in conjunction with major European and world-scale public events.

The executive committee of the UIC has decided to improve the coordination between both these groups to represent railways regarding security matters (which concern both operators and infrastructure managers as well as the interaction between them) in respect of various international bodies as and when necessary (DG TREN Directorate J Security, ECMT, WCO, UNECE).

The security mission organizes the meetings of the security group (about 5 each year): the next meeting will be held at the end of September 2005 in London after the July 2005 attacks and some events such as an international work seminar on security matters to exchange different points of view and share some experiences or issue some common decisions.

The last UIC world security forum was held in Marseille in October 2004 on the following topic: "Relations between railways and their environment in the field of security: Authorities, partners, service providers, the media and communication". The main speeches or results will be available on the UIC website. The next world forum will take place in October 2006.

At the end of 2005, UIC will organize or coorganize:

- A seminar in Rabat (Morocco) from 30 November to 2 December 2005 on the subject of Railway security and safety;
- A European seminar in Bratislava on 13-14 December 2005 to have an in-depth exchange of views between the European railways and the European Commission (DG TREN) on the security.

The UIC security mission is also in touch with American authorities such as FRA, TSA and GAO.
