**Press release**

**3 June: International Level Crossing Awareness Day**

**«** **Take your time, don't risk your life!”**

Athens, 03/06/2015

* According to ERA’s safety report (2010-2012) accidents at level crossings represent 1% of road deaths and 29% of all deaths related to railways.
* Pedestrians represent about 40% of the people killed at level crossings.
* About 600 000 level crossings in the world; 114 000 LCs in the EU

As part of International Level Crossing Awareness day (ILCAD, [www.ilcad.org](http://www.ilcad.org) ), which this year was set for June 3rd, RSI «Panos Mylonas» informs citizens, as every year, for level railway crossing safety issues.

As almost all collisions on level crossings result due to the actions of the road users, but increasingly also due to pedestrians and cyclists, this year’s campaign focuses on them.

Behaviour such as failing to respect the highway code, lapses in concentration, habit, fear of arriving late for school, work or an appointment, lack of awareness of the risks are all involved. Such behaviour which fails to take safety adequately into account, leads level crossing users to act recklessly, leading to severe injuries or even loss of life. They can put the lives of others at risk, whether those travelling in their vehicles, or rail staff and passengers.

Pedestrians who pass under or over the barriers at level crossings to save time, or cyclists who illegally zig-zag round the half barriers may sometimes allow a first train to pass but fail to expect another coming from the other direction and are struck by it.

To promote the awareness of these pedestrians and cyclists who infringe the law or who are oblivious of the risks they are running, we have produced a new 1-minute-video and some posters

Although this year’s campaign was made with pedestrians and cyclists in mind, will be useful as a reminder to all users in a hurry, distracted by modern technology (mobile phones, headphones, GPS, etc.), stressed by modern-day life.These are the people who do not respect road signs and take unnecessary risks by crossing the tracks when the light is flashing or even when the barriers are down announcing the arrival of a train.

This is a social phenomenon seen throughout the world. Indeed, the number of collisions on roads and level crossings linked to increased use of new technology or the wearing of headsets or earphones has increased in many countries.

Our accident-prevention message for 2015 “Take your time, don’t risk your life!”  is for everyone. What is a minute in a lifetime?

Examples of **Guides to Good Practice** for road users (professional drivers, motorists, etc.) pedestrians and cyclists, can be found here: <http://oli.org/education-resources/pedestrian-safety>

*The initiative for the International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) is coordinated from 2009 by the International Union of Railways(UIC) with the support of Worlds Community Railways CER*, *ΕΙΜ)*, and organizations such as European Traffic Safety Council (ETSC), Operation Lifesaver and other Road Safety Organizations, in order to make road users aware of the risks at level crossings. RSI “Panos Mylonas” participates in *the International Level Crossing Awareness Day since 2009.*