

Statements of UIC, CER and EIM on the International Level Crossing Awareness Day



Jean-Pierre Loubinoux,
Director General
International Union
of Railways (UIC)

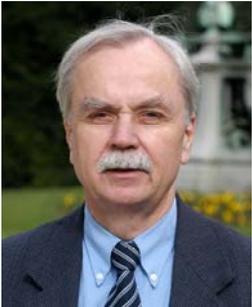
The fact that the European Level Crossing Awareness Day 2009 has become the International Level Crossing Awareness Day in 2010 and the role that the UIC has played in causing this to happen, is a step of which I am especially proud.

Accidents at level crossings are of global concern; there are still hundreds of thousands of level crossings in the world and despite the significant efforts of the railway community to remove them, this is an ongoing and indeed expensive process. Ensuring we do everything we can with all the key actors through education and public awareness remains a fundamental and indeed pivotal key in the drive to reducing the still too-high levels of risk faced by the rail operators on a daily basis.

It must be clearly understood that when respected in the designed manner, level crossings are safe. It is important that as many people around the world understand that almost all accidents at level crossing are directly caused by the lack of that respect by road users and pedestrians and that these accidents could be avoided if only they appreciate the risks and obey mandatory stop lights, signals and basic traffic safety rules.

Apart from a great many countries in Europe, I am delighted that other countries such as South Africa, Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Mexico, India and Israel have now joined the ILCAD initiative and the interest continues to grow in all the regions of the world.

The International Union of Railways will continue to play a strong and indeed lead role in this constant drive and to continue to invite partners from new countries via our regional assemblies and through our partnerships with the leading international organisations around the globe.



Johannes Ludewig
Executive Director
European railway
and infrastructure
managers (CER)

European railway companies and infrastructure managers constantly aim to improve safety at level crossings in order to decrease the number of accidents that occur every year.

Many accidents at road and rail junctions are deadly examples of what happens when a car, a cyclist or a pedestrian carelessly crosses a railway line. In most cases, these accidents are caused by road users failing to observe signals and basic traffic safety rules. That's why we believe collaboration between rail and road is absolutely essential.

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) co-organises the second International Level Crossing Awareness Day together with the major international rail and road associations, governmental agencies and non-profit organisations because we believe that this joint approach is crucial to raise awareness of level crossings for road users and to promote safe behaviour at and around level crossings. We are confident that the actions taken today throughout Europe will help to make level crossings safer.



Jose Pires,
Technical Advisor
European Rail Infrastructure
Managers (EIM)

"Level crossings can be safe only if their users have a clear comprehension of the existing rules. That is why these campaigns are vital. The future rail infrastructure will be build not just to maximize the competition and development of the rail industry but also to interact safely with other modes of transport, using new solutions to achieve minimal danger for the users,"



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The International Union of Railways (UIC) is the international professional association representing the rail sector. UIC currently counts 200 members across five continents. Its mandate is to promote the growth of rail transport across the world and to encourage and organise international cooperation between its members. UIC's technical departments draw their lead from the strategies defined by the members of its specialist forums and platforms, and steer or coordinate a total of circa 200 projects in the field of international cooperation, covering all aspects of rail activities: rail system technology, passenger and freight transport, research, safety and security, sustainable development and the development of skills and expertise, see www.uic.org



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The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 70 European railway undertakings and infrastructure companies. CER represents the interests of its members towards the European institutions as well as other policy makers and transport actors. CER's main focus is promoting the strengthening of rail as essential to the creation of a sustainable transport system which is efficient, effective and environmentally sound. For more information, see www.cer.be

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EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers, was established to promote the interests and views of the independent infrastructure managers in Europe, following liberalisation of the railway market, with a view to supporting the development of the rail industry. It is a lobbying organisation which also provides technical expertise to the appropriate European bodies. To find out more about EIM, visit www.eimrail.org