



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS

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J.P. Loubinoux said: *“Trains are undoubtedly one the safest modes of transport. But it is the interface between road and rail, namely level crossings that represent a big operational risk for the railways. The most logical solution would be to engineer out the problem and remove all level crossings, but it would restrict mobility in many places. In addition building bridges or underpasses is not always possible in built up areas; it is also very expensive and is the result of a long process. Level crossings are safe for road users and pedestrians as soon as they respect the traffic signs and signals set out in the Highway Code, in the UN “Convention on Road Traffic” and the “Convention on Road Signs and Signals”, both signed in Vienna in 1968 and applied worldwide.*

This is why the International Level Crossing Awareness Day is so important to make level crossing users aware of the dangers that they face when not respecting the traffic rules and make them aware of the serious risks not only for themselves but also for their accompanying persons, railway staff members and train passengers.

I am very pleased that the UIC has taken on the role of coordinating the action related to this awareness raising and this year we celebrate the 7th edition.

UIC and UNECE have been cooperating on this issue for some years now resulting in the creation of an international expert group on level crossing safety hosted by the UNECE in Geneva to better tackle this issue with rail safety experts, road sector organisations and Ministry Delegates of the 56 UNECE member states. I am pleased and honoured to see ILCAD 2015 hosted by TCDD today!”