



Press Release n° 279

“Getting the Climate Right for Transport” with UIC and UITP at the United Nations Climate Change conference (COP 13) in Bali

(Paris/Bali, 4 December 2007). Climate change has become THE global issue, and even the most sceptical seems to acknowledge the need of acting urgently to reducing the human activities causing the global warming. Transport still represents one of the biggest challenges, and railways have to continue to promote and position their contribution and advantages. As claimed by the Chairman of the conference, Ivo De Boer, *UNFCCC Executive Secretary*, the big question is: “*what is the political answer to what the scientific community is telling so clearly?*”

UIC and UITP are present for the 5th time at the UN Climate Change conference with the “Keep Kyoto on track” campaign. For COP 13 UIC and UITP have been jointly challenged by the organizers - the United Nations Framework Conventions of Climate Changes (UNFCCC) - to organize two side events on transport in cooperation with two transport research institutions, Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) from UK and Institute for Transport Policy Studies (ITPS) from Japan.

The events are entitled “Getting the Climate Right for Transport” and will focus mainly on the advantages of rail and public transport in a sustainable transport system. The UIC message emphasis all the strong efforts going on in the sector on energy efficiency and emissions reductions and the need for modal shift and internalisation of external costs :

- **1%:** Railway causes only a minor share of the global greenhouse emissions
- **Better:** Railways are continuously improving their energy efficiency and emissions performance
- **Modal shift:** Rail is a part of the solution for how to reduce emissions in the transport sector and is the backbone of sustainable transport systems :
 - o If railways increase their emissions due to modal shift – the transport sector obtains more efficient emissions – more people and goods - per emission!
 - o External costs have to be included so the market reflects the true costs of transport

A representative from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will set the scene focusing on the links between transport, energy and climate changes.

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“Getting the Climate Right for Transport” will take place on the 7th and the 8th of December next. . The UIC also continues the Keep Kyoto on track campaign at its exhibition stand in Bali.

In 2008 COP 14 will be held in Gdansk, Poland, while COP 15 in 2009 will be hosted by Copenhagen. In Copenhagen the “new” Kyoto Protocol shall be agreed upon. The preparations, often entitled beyond or post-Kyoto, are already in progress.



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