



Press Release n° 250

Rail and Public Transport brought into the spotlight with transport event at the annual United Nations Conference on Climate change in Nairobi

(Nairobi / Paris, 20 November 2006). A plea to governments came from transport and economic experts at a official "side event" organised in Nairobi by major international rail and public transport associations within the United Nations Conference on Climate change (UNFCCC). They called for funds from carbon trading emissions to help ensure that the developing world focuses more effort on building and maintaining integrated sustainable transport systems.

Concern on the increase of emissions from the transport sector has stimulated this demand as for the third year running emissions from this sector are growing fastest, offsetting much of the effort from other sectors.

As this meeting is being held at the UN compound in Giririr on the outskirts of Nairobi, it was appropriate that this side event placed the accent on the issue of transport and its role in economic development.

Top level speakers from United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHABITAT), *Sara Candiracci* set out the agenda for accepting the role that public and non motorised transport such as walking and cycling play in this part of the world and some of the cultural resistance to accepting these modes of transport in a modern dynamic environment. Dr *Lew Fulton*, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and expert for the Global Environment facility one of the carbon mechanisms, presented some of the latest thinking on the potential for modal shift in reducing Greenhouse gas emissions from transport and highlighted the recent explosion in Bus Rapid Transport (BRT).

Margrethe Sagevik, from UIC, *Heather Allen*, from UITP and *Suzanne L'Ami* from UNIFE complemented these presentations with the recently approved UITP position on climate change, the efforts of the railway sector to even improve its energy efficiency advantage to other transport modes, and the commitment of the railway supply industry to reduce emissions during manufacture and the emissions from the total life cycle of railway vehicles.

The three associations also presented European and worldwide examples of the use of rail and public transport systems to inspire emerging economies to develop sound and sustainable transport systems as a future objective. Topics emerging during the roundtable discussion were the harassment of African women in public transport and the lack of political and financial will to invest into developing rail and public transport systems.

At the moment transport is included in the national GHG inventories but remains out of the Kyoto protocol. However, the need for reorientating transport in developing countries poses a real challenge both for climate protection and their economic development.

In addition there are still few transport projects that have been accepted as a part of the Kyoto protocol mechanism, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and only two in the pipeline at the moment out of 1300 proposals and five of the recent nine transport projects submitted with new methodologies have been rejected. UITP and UIC are at present working with UNEP to try to develop a clearer pathway for transport projects. A UITP regional event in Sao Paulo in December will also bring experts on the potential of carbon trading for transport projects.

All presentations from the event on 14th November will be available www.railway-mobility.org.

The International Union of Railways (UIC), with 172 members from all 5 continents, is the World-wide organisation for cooperation among Railways. At World level UIC promotes rail transport in order to meet challenges of Mobility and Sustainable development. Among its main missions are: creating new railway standards, developing centres of excellence. www.uic.asso.fr

The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) is the international organisation for public transport authorities and operators, policy decision-makers, scientific institutes and the public transport supply and service industry. It is a platform for worldwide co-operation and the sharing of know-how between its 2,700 members from some 90 countries. www.uitp.com

The Association of European Railway Industries (UNIFE) is the European association for the railway supply industry located in Brussels. Its members come from trend setting industries in the field of rolling stock, infrastructure, information technology and signaling, provision of parts and services. Further railway equipment suppliers are represented through their national associations. UNIFE represents its members' interests towards the European institutions, international railway associations and other business relations. UNIFE works in partnership with them to promote rail transport. www.unife.org

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