

Press Release, 25 July 2008

New booklet provides facts & figures on sustainable rail transport

Transport presents real challenges as society tries to ensure a more environmentally sustainable future. It is the only sector in the EU in which greenhouse gas emissions have consistently risen since 1990 and it is projected to remain the fastest growing sector despite multiple initiatives. A new booklet, jointly published by UIC and CER, provides factual and statistical evidence on the environmental impact of the different transport modes.

To make long term decisions on the future of European transport, it is important that there is accurate data to consult. The booklet "Rail Transport and Environment: Facts & Figures" summarises statistical and factual evidence on the environmental impact of the different transport modes. It demonstrates that the environmental case for rail is compelling because

- travelling by rail is on average 3-10 times less CO₂ intensive compared to road or air transport;
- rail contributes less than 2 percent of the EU transport sector's CO₂ emissions;
- rail is on average 2-5 times more energy efficient than road, shipping and aviation;
- through measures including eco-driving, use of new rolling stock and operational changes, railways continue to reduce energy consumption;
- electric railways could achieve zero CO₂ emissions if the electricity production is sourced from renewable energy sources.

In the booklet you will find further facts and figures on issues such as climate change and CO₂ emissions, energy efficiency, electricity mix, land take, local air pollution, noise emissions, subsidies and external costs. Last but not least helpful statistics on European transport have been included.

You can download the booklet following link :

http://www.uic.asso.fr/homepage/railways&environment_facts&figures.pdf or order it by e-mail communication@uic.asso.fr

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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 vis-à-vis 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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The International Union of Railways (UIC) is the worldwide organisation for international cooperation among railways and gathers 201 members on all 5 continents. The UIC main missions are to promote rail transport across the world in order to cope with current challenges of mobility and sustainable development, by enhancing international cooperation between its members, building a consistent railway system and achieving projects of global dimension. For more information, see www.uic.asso.fr