

**Central and Eastern European countries get updated information
on modern rolling stock and railway equipment**

A Seminar on modern rolling stock and railway equipment was organized jointly by UNECE Trans-European Railway (TER) Project with the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Federation of French Railway Industries (FIF) on 18-20 September 2002, in Strasbourg, France.

The purpose of the Seminar was to update CEE countries on the latest development on modern rolling stock and railway equipment produced. Representatives of Transport Ministries and Railway Companies from nine (9) TER member countries, as well as French manufacturers of railway equipment, were among those attended.

The Seminar offered the participants the possibility to visit factories and have discussions on developments and trends of railway industry in France and worldwide with several manufacturers of: coaches, EMU and DMU, high speed coaches, rail/road wagons, centralized traffic control, computerized signaling, consultancy in test planning, rehabilitation of tracks and platforms, production of axles, wheels and wheelset for railway traction, train air conditioning, video supervision of operation, electrical connectors for inter coach connections and power supply, rail track equipment, rail pads and sleeper boots, etc. They also had the opportunity to be present in a crash-test of a coach equipped with special buffers.

The Seminar proved the strength, commitment, dynamism and innovative spirit that characterizes the railway industry and presented the existing challenges for the railways. The participants agreed that it is time for serious decision aiming at the further development of existing railway potentials and increased contribution of the railway sector for the alleviation of congestion, reduction of environmental as well as safety problems in major national and international transport networks.

The TER Project, following the successful organization of this Seminar, is considering organizing a similar one in 2003 by using the experience of another country.

