

**Seminar on EU transport policy towards Pan-European integration and implementation of railway reform in the EU states and CEEC
13-15 November, 2002, Paris, France**

On 13-15 November, 2002, UNECE-TER, UIC and CER jointly organised a seminar in Paris on EU transport policy towards Pan-European integration and implementation of railway reform in the EU states and CEEC.

The seminar was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Transport, railway companies, commercial firms, etc. from CEEC and member states of the EU as well as UIRR.

Some of the main conclusions of the seminar could be summed up as follows:

- Further implementation of the EU Directives, of the “acquis communautaire” in the candidate countries in accession should continue. This should lead to the increase of the competitive force of the railways. At the same time, they have to ensure developments and implement standards and parameters in accordance with the relevant agreements adopted at European level within UNECE.
- Between continuation of railway reform and increase of railway profitability is a close relationship. Efforts should be made in order to ensure an increase of the share of railway transport on the market of transport in general.
- New measures for increasing the quality of all kind of railway services remains as a permanent task to be fulfilled.
- Facilitation of border crossing procedures has an ever increasing importance for the development of efficient international railway transport. In this respect the activity developed within TER Project and UIC was appreciated. Efforts should be continued and further strengthened with the view of achieving tangible results towards the adoption of measures in line with the “Schengen acquis” of the EU.
- The extension of co-operation among railway companies should lead to new opportunities for improving traffic and profits.
- The importance of technical harmonisation of the rolling stock, railway equipment and the implementation of railway interoperability was fully recognised. Exchange of information and transfer of know-how between EU members and CEEC should develop further.
- Government support given to the railways in the process of reforming this sector was considered crucial for the success of this operation
- Monitoring the development of Pan-European corridors as well as implementation of projects in the countries is a priority task for achieving a coherent and efficient railway network.

- Combined transport should be further developed in the interest of all parties concerned.
- The practice of debating current problems in the European railway sector should continue in the interest of both EU member states and CEEC, with the view of achieving an integrated European railway area.

