



Press Release

Brussels, 3rd July 2009

UIP reaction to the Viareggio freight wagon accident

UIP (International Union of Private Wagons) regrets deeply the tragic accident in Viareggio on 29th June 2009 apparently involving wagons of one of its member companies and expresses its condolences to the victims.

UIP hopes that the causes which have lead to this catastrophe will be cleared up without any doubts as soon as possible.

UIP took notice of the announcement of the EU Transport Commissioner Tajani to organize a conference on transport safety in September with the objective to clarify the current safety system for dangerous goods transport and offers any support and information required for the preparation of this event.

In spite of this tragic event UIP wants nevertheless to remind that rail transport is by far the safest transport mode. Over 700.000 freight wagons run daily through Europe subject to strict safety rules which certainly exceed the safety standards of road transport and allowing an environmentally friendly exchange of goods throughout Europe.

The safety rules for the exchange of rail freight wagons are the result of long years of experience and intensive discussion on EU at wider European (COTIF) level. An accident as tragic it has to be felt cannot put into doubt the safest European transport mode for goods.

The entire rail sector has a high interest in an independent in-depth investigation of the causes for that tragic accident so that any such events can be avoided in the future. As long as the causes and the responsibilities are not proven beyond any doubt, any measure taken at this stage might not fulfil the objective it is meant for. This also includes actions such as excluding wagons from free circulation or any other restrictions.

For further information:

U.I.P.

Av. Herrmann Debroux 15A

B – 1160 Brussels

Tel : +32 26 72 88 47

Fax: +32 26 72 81 14

info@uiprail.org