



Dr. Heiko Fischer takes over the Presidency of the UIP

On June 02, 2015, Dr. Heiko Fischer, CEO of VTG Aktiengesellschaft, was elected as the new President of the UIP. He succeeds Dr. Eckart Lehmann, who held the presidency during the last four years.

"I am delighted with the tasks that lie ahead of me and will start with a comprehensive program", Fischer said and added: "Together we want to increase the attractiveness of rail freight and find solutions for critical topics such as noise reduction, cost burden, enhancing of competitiveness and harmonization. Our ultimate goal is to bring more traffic from road to rail throughout Europe."

As CEO of VTG Aktiengesellschaft, Fischer represents the largest privately owned company for the rental of freight wagons and logistics solutions in Europe. In his tenure as UIP President he will work towards fostering a closer cooperation within the Sector and aims at reducing the cost burden for rail freight services. With more than 20 years of experience in rail freight, he wants to particularly devote his efforts on the following topics:

The Fourth Railway Package

The prerequisite for a European rail transport market that is marked by competition and transparency is the design of administrative processes with clear roles and responsibilities. These include technical harmonization and matching policies, as well as Safety Certification at European level. To achieve these objectives the UIP already works closely with numerous European bodies.

Noise Reduction

Only an intelligent combination of silent vehicles and a well maintained infrastructure is able to sustain lower noise in rail freight transport throughout Europe. In order to achieve this, international approaches are required, such as Europe-wide financial compensations to support the retrofitting and increased operational costs.

Competitive rail freight

The competitiveness of rail freight transport compared to other modes must be included in all discussions and activities. The goal shall be to create the appropriate framework in order to bring more traffic to rail. This requires a wide and international political support, a demand-based fleet planning, flexible logistics concepts, as well as adequate infrastructure charges and promotion of the single wagonload traffic.

About UIP

Founded in 1950, the UIP – International Union of Wagon Keepers, with its seat in Brussels, is the umbrella association of national associations from fourteen European countries, thus representing more than 200 keepers and approximately 200.000 freight wagons, performing more than 50 % of the rail freight tonne-kilometres throughout Europe. UIP represents the members' concerns at international level. By means of research, lobbying and focused cooperation with all stakeholders and organisations interested in rail freight transportation, the UIP wants to secure on the long term the future of rail freight transport. www.uiprail.org