

Protectrail European research project

Final conference UIC HQ Tuesday 27 May 2014

Introduction speech by Mr Jean Pierre Loubinoux, UIC Director General

Dear all,

It's really a pleasure for me to welcome you all here at UIC HQ, as involved and interested participants in this European project PROTECTRAIL, funded by the European Commission within the FP 7 programme.

Of course, since last week, the European framework is changing and the European priorities could be different!

But today we are here all together to prepare the conclusion of the PROTECTRAIL project that the European Commission has made possible.

This project is important in itself, by its administrative characteristics:

Over 46 months 28 various partners (railway end users, security providers, consultants or research structures) have been working together in order to find and demonstrate the right solutions to improve rail security or beyond that, rail protection. The global budget is considerable: about 22 million €, including more than 13 million € of EU funding.

But this project is **an important project for the railways** (infrastructure manager and railway undertakings): in the case of crisis or negative event due to delinquency or terrorism, or in the case of any other event due to the rail environment (other hazards, climatic conditions, natural disasters ...) the control rooms will be able to react in the best way:

PROTECTRAIL will have demonstrated that all the necessary and relevant information can reach the control rooms in an appropriate and standardised way: information on any event, scenarios developed as help for the decision, modularity of the technical devices enabling to take into account the technological evolutions. Of course the main railway companies have already built their own structure of security management and emergency management. But the solutions developed validated and tested in PROTECTRAIL can help them to improve their own organisation by addressing both: technological aspects and human/organisational factors.

For other railway companies PROTECTRAIL will give a relevant framework, not to reinvent the wheel but to implement relevant solutions at the best cost efficiency ratio.

PROTECTRAIL is also an important project for UIC: its involvement in such projects can benefit all its members by sharing the costs and disseminating the relevant information. Of course it will be done at first for the UIC members of the consortium, but we'll go beyond that and in accordance with the consortium's rules, we'll disseminate the main results and choices within a white paper to be produced and in a future UIC leaflet of recommendations prepared at global level, as it's the vocation of UIC. Perhaps we also have to think of a possible continuation of PROTECTRAIL in some topics within the framework of other future projects.

Finally I would like to highlight that this final conference is an **important day** – thanks to all the organisers and involved partners and staff: you can see the importance of devices and tools in this room, but we are in direct connection with Italy for a third demonstration: after Zmigrod in Poland in October 2013, the Villecresnes tunnel in France in February 2014, we have a direct link today with Italy for demonstrating a protection of wide infrastructure in the Palermo area

I won't go into further details of the project – it's your role now – and take too much of your time because you'll have a lot of topics and exchanges planned today and tomorrow, but I wanted to be there for the opening of this final conference in order to highlight the importance of the work you've done and in order to thank you very sincerely for that: this kind of activity is particularly important for the daily life of our countries and their citizens. UIC is very proud to have contributed.