

### **Statement CIT President**

#### *21 ST OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum*

- The International Rail Transport Committee CIT is an association of 200 railway and maritime companies. Among others one important aim of the CIT is to promote cross border freight and passenger rail traffic along the Eurasian corridors.
- In the last years Eurasian Railway traffic is growing rapidly and is an interesting and valuable alternative to sea- and air transportation. In fact we already have regular intercontinental container trains between China and Western Europe on a commercial profitable basis.
- Current studies indicate a doubling of trade volume on these corridors between Asia and Europe from 2009 until 2020, which is an enormous potential for this traffic. We expect an increase to one Million Standard containers until 2030.
- These traffics are a very good example of the growing and fruitful cooperation between all the governmental institutions and the commercial players on these corridors.
- Besides the Eurasian area, CIT is also actively engaged in a project to work on multimodality for easy rail-sea transport in the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea Area.
- In this context, the CIT also works closely with intergovernmental organizations, including OTIF, OSJD and the UNECE and the European Commission. It ensures the cooperation of actors at different levels, both public and private sector both regionally and internationally.
- In doing these works, CIT joins the OSCE, whose objectives are precisely to link the various actors at the state and regional levels.
- I also would like to underline in the context of the discussions in the Economic and Environmental Forum, that railways are an energy saving and sustainable mode of transport. The promotion of rail transportation in freight and passenger could be an important measure to improve a sustainable use of the energy resources and an active contribution to a better environmental footprint in the field of logistic and passenger transportation.
- In conclusion I would like to propose to take into account during our works for the preparation of the 21<sup>ST</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum the positive contribution of railways transportation for the improvement of the environmental footprint of energy related activities in the OSCE region.