

Dear Mr State Secretary, dear colleagues, dear guests,

It is a great honour for me to welcome you on behalf of Slovak railway companies to the UIC World Congress on rail security. This congress, which is already the eighth UIC World Congress, is an annual top event dedicated to the „high level“ representatives of the rail security.

For Slovakia and for the Slovak rail sector, organization of this important event is a very positive advertisement. I am together with my colleagues from ŽSR and ZSSK Cargo very proud that UIC has asked us to organise this event. I am pleased even more, as at the UIC General Assembly in July was to the position of President of the UIC Security Platform elected representative of ZSSK, Mr Hradiský, and I very much appreciate the trust expressed by the UIC members towards ZSSK by election of our representative to this important position.

World Security Congress in Bratislava offers its participants a perfect opportunity to meet in one place rail security partners and experts from all around the world, to share their experiences and „best practice“ on international „high level“.

I am especially pleased that Slovak experts from both railway companies, but also other institutions, position of whose plays an important role in the rail security system, will have the possibility of sharing their experiences and exchanging best practice solutions.

I am therefore very pleased that our invitation to participate actively in the Congress has been accepted by the representatives of Ministry of transport, construction and regional development, Ministry of internal affairs – Railway Police and also by representatives of the University of Žilina, who will share with you current knowledge and experiences from Slovakia in their presentations.

The congress organisers have prepared a very interesting programme for you, which will be focused on human factor and its impact on the security in rail sector. Slovak railway companies traditionally dedicate to the issue of human factor a lot of attention, so we are very pleased that UIC has accepted our proposal for this year's congress to be focused on human factor and its role in rail security.

In addition to the work programme we have prepared for you together with ŽSR and ZSSK Cargo an interesting accompanying cultural and technical programme. We would like to present you Slovakia not only as a country with a long railway tradition, but also as an attractive tourist destination with traditional Slovak hospitality.

Finally I would like to thank all my colleagues from UIC and Slovak railway companies for the effort they spent in preparing this congress. We have done our best to make your stay in Slovakia as pleasant as possible and I hope you will take many new positive experiences with you.

I wish you a good success for the congress and have a nice time in Slovakia!