

unity, solidarity, universality

## Improving the sustainability of transport – The rail sector as a case study

Henning Schwarz Head of Unit Sustainable Development, International Union of Railways (UIC)

UN CSD 19 Learning Centre – New York, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2011

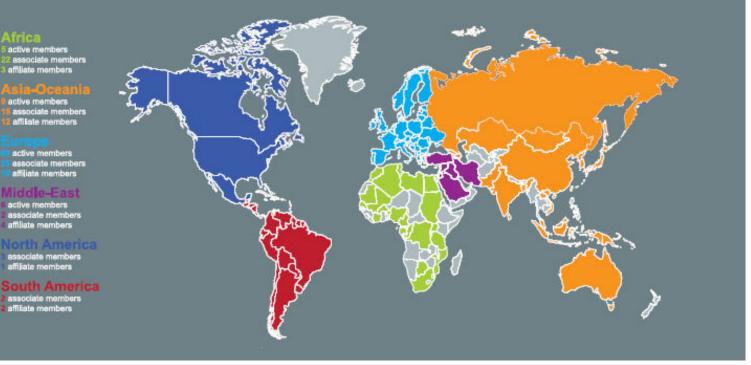
#### The rail industry in numbers

- 200 Members on 5 continents
- 2.7 billion passenger-kilometres
- 9.5 billion ton-kilometres
- 7.1 million railway staff
- 1,000,000 kilometres of lines worldwide

#### **UIC in numbers**

- 6 Regional Assemblies
- 7 Forums and Platforms
- 50 International Expert working groups
- 180 Cooperation projects
- 670 UIC Leaflets
- 200 reference documents
- 85 training sessions, conferences, seminars

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## **UIC Mission**

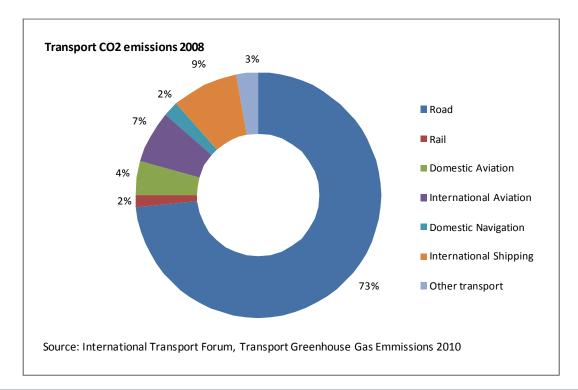
## Promoting the development of rail transport at world level, in order to meet challenges

of mobility and sustainable development



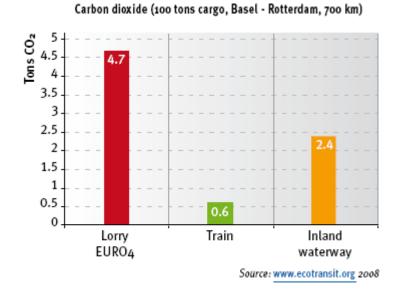
## The mobility challenge

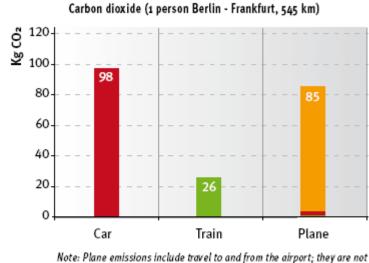
- > The explosion in global mobility has created environmental challenges
- > Transport accounts for over 50% of world consumption of fossil fuels forecast to increase to 60% in 2035
- > Within transport rail accounts for 2% of CO2 emissions



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### Rail is a low carbon transport mode





Note: Plane emissions include travel to and from the airport; they are not increased to take account of the effect of emissions at high altitude.

www.ecopassenger.org

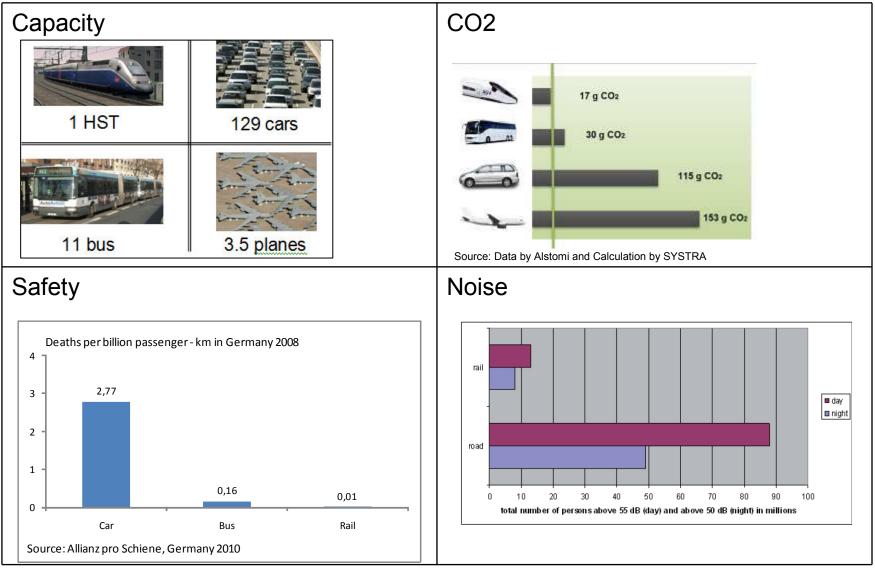
Source: www.ecopassenger.org 2008

#### www.ecotransit.org (global carbon footprinting freight)

(carbon footprinting passenger Europe)



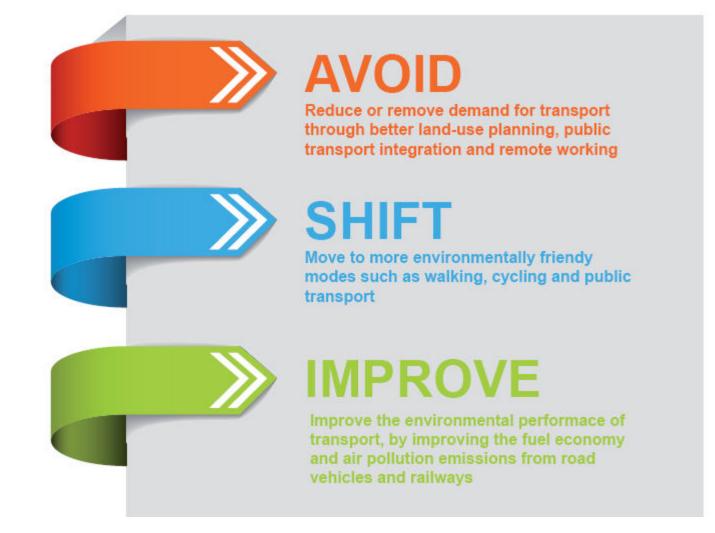
## **Rail compared to other modes**



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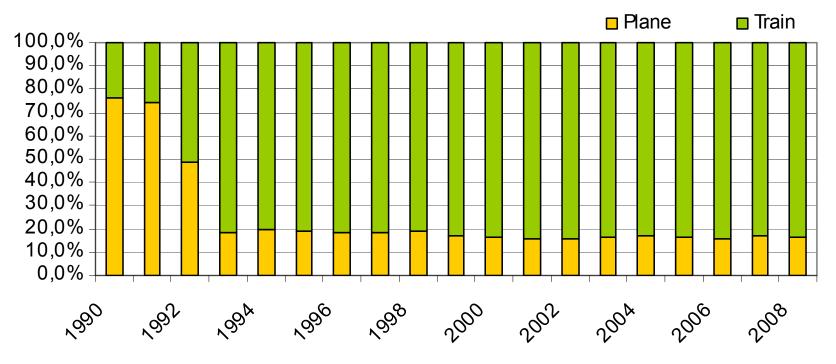


### The general concept for transport:





## Shift – Example High Speed Rail in Spain



Example AVE Madrid-Sevilla

Source: Renfe 2009

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Although one third of passengers are induced traffic overall CO2 emissions reduced by 60% on the corridor

# Improve – Strategic ambitions of European rail sector

#### Target 2020

Reduction of specific CO2 emissions from train operation by **30%**\*

#### Target 2030

Reduction of specific CO2 emissions from train operation by **50%**\*

#### Vision 2050

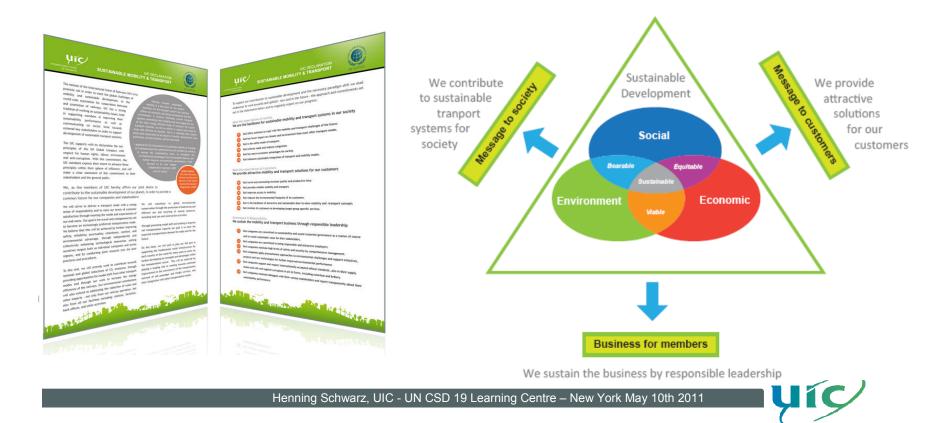
European railways will strive towards carbon-free train operation by 2050

\* Base year 1990: measured per passenger-km (passenger service) and gross tonne-km (freight service)



# Bringing it together: Declaration on Sustainable Mobility & Transport

- > 18 statements on rail's contribution and commitment to sustainable development
- > 2012: Rio 20+: First rail sector sustainability report



## Conclusions

#### > Rail is...

a low carbon mode a very safe transport mode a very resource efficient mass transport system

## > Rail has an important social and economic role:

We are a major employer We are key to the movement of freight We are a solution to traffic congestion

> The challenge is to design fully intermodally connected sustainable mass transport systems!





## **Outlook – sustainable transport**

- > A sustainable transport system combines the strengths of all transport modes in one integrated system
- > Policies and funding strategies should follow a set of key sustainability indicators for transport

Qualified decisions for policy making

**Qualified decisions for investment** 

> Rail is prepared to be the backbone of such sustainable transport systems!









#### Thank you for your kind attention!



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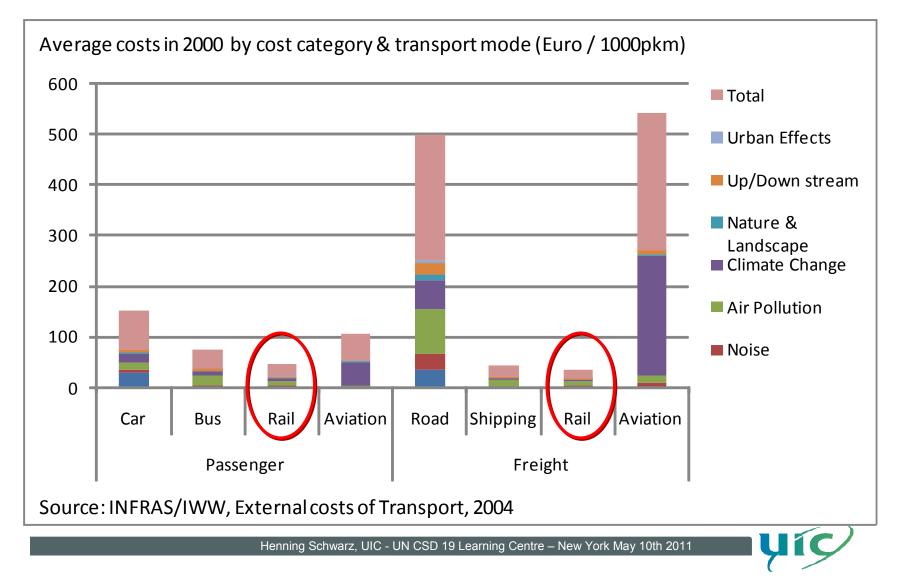
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## **Rail has lowest environmental impacts**



**Australia** - The Freightmiser system is an in-cab advice system that assists long-haul train drivers to stay on time and minimise fuel consumption. Industry trials have found fuel savings of between 5% and 20%, with no increase to journey times

**USA** - Regenerative braking is a whereby electric traction motors become generators, converting the energy of the train brake into usable power. In the United States these braking systems have allowed Amtrak to reduce energy consumption by 8%.

**Sweden** – The "Gröna Tåget" (Green Train) research shows further potential for reductions in energy consumption per seat km by 32% on the existing Stockholm to Gothenburg line through increased seating capacity and an increase in regenerative energy capacity.

**Japan** – Improvements in the design of Japanese Shinkansen trains, such as optimizing the length and shape of the lead nose and significantly reducing weight, have reduced energy consumption by 40% despite increase in maximum speed.

