

UNIFE and APTA sign Memorandum of Understanding

WASHINGTON, DC, 6 November, 2013

The European Rail Industry Association (UNIFE) and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to reinforce ties between the European and American rail sectors.

The MoU was signed last evening by Philippe Citroën (Director General of UNIFE) and Michael Melaniphy (President and CEO of APTA) at a reception hosted by the European Union Delegation to the United States in Washington. This agreement outlines a framework for cooperation and information exchange between the two associations. The signing of this MoU will be followed by meetings throughout the week between APTA, UNIFE, and their members on a number of topics.

Philippe Citroën commented, “UNIFE is very pleased to formally establish a link with APTA, and we look forward to continued collaboration on our shared challenges. In addition to sharing many of the same members, APTA and UNIFE have the common goal of promoting rail and public transportation as a solution to future mobility challenges. This MoU follows in the footsteps of an existing MoU between the Federal Railroad Administration and the European Rail Agency signed in 2012 and will add to the transatlantic dialogue and best practice sharing in the domain of rail transport.”

Michael Melaniphy said: “APTA is delighted to work closely with UNIFE, and we look forward to close cooperation and collaboration as both organizations work to advance rail transportation. The European and United States rail sectors have much to learn from each other. This Memorandum of Understanding facilitates the sharing of best practices and the robust exchange of information in technical and policy areas.”

UNIFE

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UNIFE represents the European Rail Industry in Brussels since 1992. The Association gathers more than 80 of Europe’s leading large and medium sized rail supply companies active in the design, manufacture, maintenance and refurbishment of rail transport systems, subsystems and related equipment. A further one thousand suppliers of railway equipment partake in UNIFE activities through 15 national rail industry associations. UNIFE members have an 80% market share in Europe and supply more than 50% of the worldwide production of rail equipment and services. www.unife.org

APTA

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The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) is a non-profit international association of 1,500 public and private sector organizations, engaged in the areas of bus, paratransit, light rail, commuter rail, subways, waterborne services, and intercity and high-speed passenger rail. This includes: transit systems; planning, design, construction, and finance firms; product and service providers; academic institutions; transit associations and state departments of transportation. APTA is the only association in North America that represents all modes of public transportation. APTA members serve the public interest by providing safe, efficient and economical transit services and products. More than 90 percent of the people using public transportation in the United States and Canada ride APTA member services. www.apta.com