

EUROPEAN RAIL SUPPLY INDUSTRY HOSTS JAPANESE RAILWAY OPERATORS AT THE EU DELEGATION TO JAPAN

On 9 July, UNIFE—the European Rail Industry Association and its member executives hosted nearly one hundred representatives from the European rail supply industry, Japanese railway operators (public, private, and urban) and high-level decision-makers from the EU and Japanese Government at a reception at the EU Delegation to Japan in Tokyo.



This reception was held in the context of the ongoing EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations where EU rail suppliers are calling for increased access to the Japanese rail market. The main purpose of the reception was to give European rail equipment suppliers and Japanese rail operators the opportunity to network in order to promote mutual understanding of the Japanese rail market and the European rail supply industry.

The event included brief high-level speaking programme that included remarks from the EU Ambassador to Japan, H.E. Viorel Isticioaia-Budura, the Assistant Vice-Minister for International Affairs of the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ms Yuri Furusawa, JR East Executive Director and CFO, Mr Yuri Morimoto, European Railway Agency Executive Director, Mr Josef Doppelbauer, and UNIFE Director-General, Mr Philippe Citroën.

UNIFE Director-General, Mr Philippe Citroën addressed UNIFE's expectation that the Japanese railway companies would need to make greater efforts that result in significant, concrete contracts for EU companies, stating: "For UNIFE and its members, the question of market access currently addressed in the EU-Japan FTA negotiations is absolutely essential. We believe these negotiations should strive to create a level-playing field in terms of access to both of our respective rail markets." As the FTA negotiations are accelerating, UNIFE and its members will be participating in the fourth EU-Japan Railways Industrial Dialogue that will be held on 10 November in Chiba.