



Press Release

Brussels, 20 January 2009, under embargo until 19.00h

European rail sector celebrates European Railway Award 2009

In a festive ceremony in Brussels on 20 January, the European Railway Award 2009 for political achievements was presented to the Swiss Transport Minister Moritz Leuenberger. Bengt Sterner, a leading rail engineer from Sweden, received the European Railway Award 2009 in the category for technical achievements.

With the European Railway Award, the European rail sector honours outstanding political and technical achievements in the development of economically and environmentally sustainable rail transport. First presented in 2007, the European Railway Award 2009 attracted more than 300 guests from all over Europe, including high-level politicians and transport stakeholders.

The Swiss Transport Minister Moritz Leuenberger received the European Railway Award 2009 for his political dedication to encourage modal shift from road to rail in Switzerland. The prize was handed over by the European Commission's Vice-President and Transport Commissioner Antonio Tajani and CER Vice-Chairman Mauro Moretti. In his laudatory speech, Antonio Tajani underlined the role of Moritz Leuenberger in introducing the Swiss Heavy Vehicle Fee in the 1990s. He also pointed out: "The Swiss have not only relied on using financial incentives to make transport more sustainable. They also opened the rail market to competition, being convinced that this way the railways will become a more efficient and a true alternative to road transport. In addition, the Swiss have consequently promoted rail interoperability to make the rail system stronger, increasing the possibility to operate in the EU and thus boosting the traffic and the competitiveness of rail transport."

The European Railway Award 2009 for technical achievements was presented to the Swedish rail engineer Bengt Sterner by UNIFE Chairman Hans-Jörg Grundmann. As one of the chief architects of the electronic train control system ERTMS, Bengt Sterner has largely contributed to the development of rail interoperability, Hans-Jörg Grundmann emphasised. "Bengt Sterner can truly be called a founding father of ERTMS and the railway industry, rail operators and infrastructure managers are extremely proud to recognise his achievements with the European Railway Award 2009."

The European Railway Award is organised by the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) and the Association of the European Rail Industry (UNIFE). Johannes Ludewig, CER Executive Director said, "Europe is witnessing a revival of rail as the most environmentally friendly major mode of transport. This green revival does not come from nowhere. It heavily relies on personal achievements which are often not sufficiently acknowledged. With the European Railway Award we put the spotlight on extraordinary key players like Moritz Leuenberger and Bengt Sterner and say thank you for their lasting support and dedication in developing sustainable rail transport in Europe."

Michael Clausecker, UNIFE Director-General said, "When one levels the playing field and all transport



The Voice
of European
Railways





modes are treated equally, only rail transport can sustainably foster economic growth, only rail can answer the growing mobility demands of passengers and goods, and at the same time only rail can play a huge part in tackling climate change and in reducing CO2 emissions. No other transport mode comes close! The winners today long ago recognised this, and today we in the rail sector proudly recognise them for their achievements in promoting rail transport and looking to the future.”

Pictures of the European Railway Award 2009 will be available after the ceremony from 20h at www.cer.be and www.unife.org.



Background:

European Railway Award 2009

The European Railway Award regularly honours outstanding political and technical achievements in the development of economically and environmentally sustainable rail transport. The award comes with prize money of 5,000 Euro each, which will be donated to charity organisations of the laureates' choice. The jury for the European Railway Award 2009 consisted of CEOs of rail and rail industry companies as well as stakeholders from the transport sector, including ERTMS Corridor Coordinator, Karel Vinck, and the Chairman of the Transport Committee in the European Parliament, Paolo Costa.

Moritz Leuenberger - Laureate "Political Award"

Moritz Leuenberger (62), Swiss Transport Minister, set out a blueprint for a sustainable transport policy in Switzerland, which became a role model for the rest of Europe. Heading the Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications since 1995, Leuenberger has long focused on developing sustainable transport and climate policies. With the aim of transferring goods traffic from road to rail, he promoted the Swiss Heavy Vehicles Fee, which came into operation on the entire Swiss public road network in 2001. In order to reduce Switzerland's CO2 emissions, Leuenberger also introduced an incentive tax on fossil fuels, which entered into force in 2008.

A curriculum vitae of Moritz Leuenberger is available at <http://www.uvek.admin.ch/org/vorsteher/00486/index.html?lang=en>

Bengt Sterner - Laureate "Technical Award"

Bengt Sterner (73), one of the chief architects of the electronic train control system ETCS, was active in the introduction of the first electronic interlocking system in Sweden at the end of the 1970s. He also took part in the development of the Nordic automatic train protection system EBICAP in 1974. At the beginning of the 1990s he moved to the European Railway Research Institute (ERRI) in Utrecht to chair the A200 group in charge of the development of ETCS system requirement specifications. He was responsible for inventing major principles of ETCS that were finalised in 1997. In parallel he was involved in the A201 project to harmonise interlocking systems, before he retired in 1999.



Contact:

Frank Schneider
CER Press and Communications Manager
phone +32 2 213 08 90
mobile +32 473 32 20 94
e-mail frank.schneider@cer.be

The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 70 European infrastructure and railway undertakings. CER represents the interests of its members towards the European institutions as well as other policy makers and transport actors. CER's main focus is promoting the strengthening of rail as essential to the creation of a sustainable transport system which is efficient, effective and environmentally sound. For more information, see www.cer.be

Max Obenaus
UNIFE Head of Communications
phone +32 2 642 23 28
mobile +32 485 753 665
e-mail max.obenaus@unife.org

UNIFE represents the interests of the European Rail Industry towards the European institutions, international railway associations and other business relations. The European Rail Industry provides competitive railway systems for increased rail traffic and follows the objective of making rail transport the sustainable solution for the challenges of the 21st century mobility. The European Rail Industry consists of trend setting industries in the field of rolling stock, infrastructure, information technology and signalling, provision of part and services. For more information, see www.unife.org