



COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN RAILWAYS AND INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY ORGANISATIONS





UIC



In 2001, *Latvian Railway* continued extensive cooperation with foreign railway authorities and various international railway associations and institutions.

Since 1992, *Latvian Railway* is actively participating in the activities of the Organisation for Railways Cooperation (OSJD). Railways from 27 countries are represented in the OSJD: CIS, Baltic and Central European countries, Germany, Finland, People's Republic of China, People's Democratic Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Mongolia, Cuba, etc. Latvia's representative in the OSJD – Ēvalds Ribulis is working in Warsaw.

In accordance with the OSJD programme, 4 meetings on topical matters with regard to railway development and cooperation were held in 2001 in Latvia. During this year, 62 *Latvian Railway* representatives participated in various OSJD activities.

Latvian Railway is a member of the International Union of Railways (UIC) since 1992. In the beginning of 2001, the UIC comprised 152 railways and enterprises from 5 continents. During 2001, 25 *Latvian Railway* representatives participated in various UIC activities.

Since 1992, *Latvian Railway* is taking part in the activities of the Railway Transport Council of CIS, Baltic States and Bulgaria. In 1996, *Latvian Railway* was admitted into associated membership of the Council granting our railway more extensive rights and opportunities without impairing the freedom of action to carry out its decisions. In 1996 and 1999, the Council meetings were held in Latvia.

In October 2000, *Latvian Railway* was admitted as a standing member to the International Coordinating Council on Transsiberian Transportation. The Council was established in 1993 and now comprises more than 40 actively collaborating members – railways, shipping agencies, ports, associations of forwarders and operators.

Since 1993, *Latvian Railway* is representing our country in the International Railway Congress Association (IRCA) comprising more than 100 organisations and enterprises from 80 countries.

In September 1999, *Latvian Railway* entered the International Organisation for the Collaboration among Railway Police and Safety Institutions (COLPOFER) with the aim of arriving at more effective solutions to railway traf-

fic safety problems, using the experience of other European countries.

In December 2001, an international seminar on the pace and problems of the European (including the Baltic States) railway reform was held in Riga. The seminar was organised by the Association of the European Railwaymen (A.E.C) and the Latvia section of the A.E.C; financial support was provided by the TAIEX foundation of the European Union. 65 persons participated, 25 of them being representatives from Latvia.

The main international collaboration partners of *Latvian Railway* are the railway organisations from Russian Federation, Belarus, Lithuania, Estonia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, as well as Germany and Poland.

Regular meetings of the general managers from Baltic railways are held to discuss the most pending collaboration matters. The meetings are organised, in accordance with the agreed procedure, by each Baltic State in turn.

In 2001, the associated membership of *Latvian Railway* to the European Association of Railway Engineers was resumed. *Latvian Railway* is represented in this association by the Latvia Railwaymen Engineering Society.

In 2001, *Latvian Railway* took part in such significant activities as:

- the international exhibition and conference *Trans-Russia 2001*, from 27 to 30 March in Moscow;
- the international exhibition and conference *Transit-TransKazakhstan 2001*, from 25 to 27 April in Alma-Ata;
- the international conference *TransBaltija 2001* on 7 and 8 June in Riga;
- the international conference *E-business Forum of the Baltic Sea Region*, from 26 to 28 September in Riga.

Apart from that, *Latvian Railway* specialists attended international exhibitions: *EuroRail 2001* in Madrid, *Transport & Logistics* in Munich, *Intermodal 2001* in Hamburg, etc.

In 2001, 570 members of *Latvian Railway* staff made business trips to 31 world countries with the aim of participating in business discussions, team meetings, international seminars, conferences and congresses, as well as international exhibitions.