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International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) on 7 June 2012

"Trains are undoubtedly one of the safest modes of transport. But it is the interface between road and rail, namely level crossings that represent a big operational risk for the railways. The most logical solution would be to engineer out the problem and remove all level crossings, but it would restrict mobility in many places. In addition building bridges or underpasses is not always possible in built up areas; it is also very expensive and is the result of a long process. Level crossings are safe for road users and pedestrians as soon as they respect the traffic signs and signals set out in the Highway Code, in the UN "Convention on Road Traffic" and the "Convention on Road Signs and Signals", both signed in Vienna in 1968 and applied worldwide.

That's the reason why the International Level Crossing Awareness Day is so important to make level crossing users aware of the dangers they face when not respecting the traffic rules and make them aware of the serious risks not only for themselves but also for their accompanying persons, railway staff members and train passengers.

I am very pleased that the UIC has taken on the role of coordinating the action related to this awareness raising and this year we celebrate the 4th edition. Since 2010, the first truly International Level Crossing Awareness Day, more than 42 countries around the world are involved and this year ILCAD welcomes 4 new partners: (Morocco, Turkey, Spain and Norway). On 7 June 2012 under the single logo "ILCAD" and a single motto: "Act safely at level crossings", they will organise their campaign either only on 7 June, or during one week or one month like RFF. We are targeting even more partners, thus enabling the campaign to reach an even wider audience of potential level crossing users."