CER, EIM and UIC Position Paper

Brussels & Paris, 17 July 2018

COR SMD – A European safety database

COR SMD – A EUROPEAN SAFETY DATABASE

Summary

CER, EIM and UIC support a form of enhanced safety management data capture at European level, underlining that we fully believe exchanging safety related data on European level is beneficial for the European railway sector and its stakeholders. CER, EIM and UIC believe that the exchange of appropriate safety related data brings added value to all parties in the sector.

CER, EIM and UIC support linking national and European reporting in order to avoid any double reporting, additional costs or administrative burden.

CER and EIM suggest to openly consider UIC to set up and maintain the European safety database as a neutral service provider for the Agency.

In this case CER, EIM und UIC commonly believe that a European safety database, based on common/shared principles needs to be developed and agreed by the sector stakeholders and safety authorities as well as the Agency. The work will be carried out within the framework of the Agency's common occurrence reporting project.

1. Context

Having a European reporting system that strengthens safety for railways in Europe, without weakening the national safety level, is crucial for the work on common occurrence reporting.

So far the International Union of Railways (UIC), as an international railway association, has been managing the UIC Safety Database capturing the majority of significant railway accidents that occur in Europe[1] on behalf of its members, the railway operating community.

It has been offering the opportunity of a cross-criteria quantitative analysis, time-series and trends of indicators, a focus on causes and consequences and benchmarking between infrastructure managers as well as a mapping of occurrences.

CER, EIM and UIC acknowledge that the draft taxonomy, to be further developed in the Agency's common occurrence reporting project, is based on:

- Occurrences
- Consequences
- Causes

A new safety database shall be set up on European level owned by the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) with access rights for the Agency, NSAs, NIBs and the respective railway actors. The respective confidentiality agreement(s) need to be further elaborated.

The IT interface between NOR and COR SMD must be ensured allowing a smooth and seamless data transfer.

The content of the database and its use need to be defined accordingly to the COR taxonomy (to be defined).

A viable solution could be to base the European safety database on the existing UIC database.

Despite the existing UIC database and the new European safety database not having identically defined "taxonomy" and "terminology", the collected information is content-wise the same.

2. Recommendation

CER, EIM and UIC recommend:

  o To keep the existing, well-functioning and reliable national reporting systems.
  o To set up the European reporting as an add-on application to the National Occurrence Reporting (NOR).
  o To properly interface National Occurrence Reporting (NOR) and Common Occurrence Reporting (COR).

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1 (Not included are Ireland, Finland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Greece, Denmark and Bulgaria)

CER, EIM and UIC appreciate the idea of the data warehouse (RU/IM feeds data to NOR, NOR feeds into COR data warehouse), acknowledging the need to promote occurrence reporting in countries without such systems and recommends the Agency promotes the establishment of such tools.

CER, EIM and UIC propose:

- o To use NOR as portal for COR.
- o NSAs to be a single point of contact for COR data and to forward consolidated content of European relevance to COR.
- o The input to NOR is based on the existing legal requirements (the CSIs).

CER, EIM and UIC believe that the benefit of this database is to systematically collect and evaluate safety related information at European level in order to keep and, if possible, to increase the railway safety at European level.

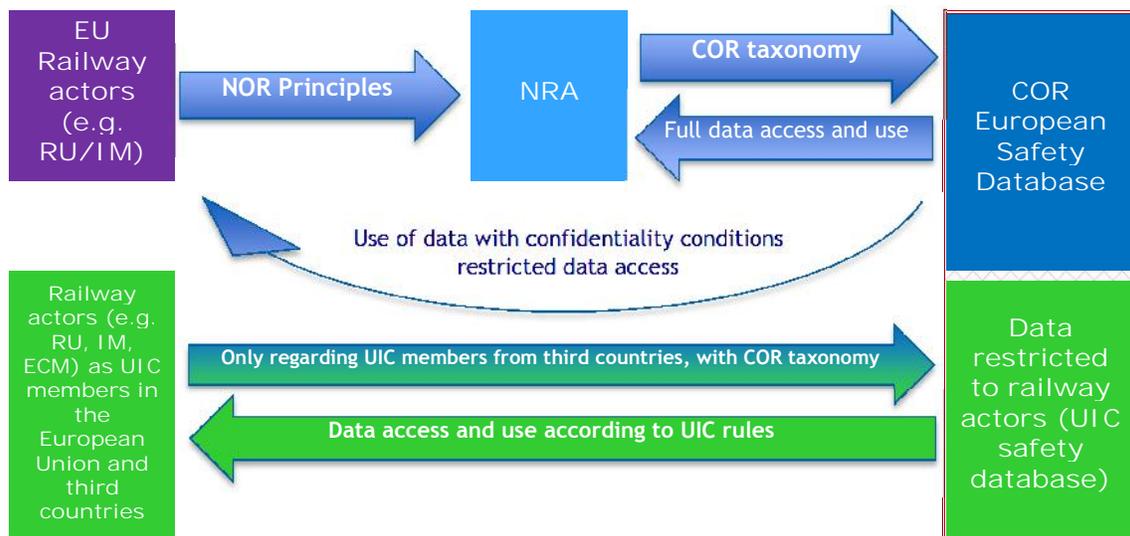## 3. The UIC Database

3.1 The Role of UIC

CER, EIM and UIC believe that the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) shall be the owner of the European safety database.

If the UIC database is used as basis for the European safety database by the Agency:

- The database could be set-up by UIC, following the defined criteria and principles in the Agency's common occurrence reporting (COR) project.
- Maintained by UIC as an independent service provider for the Agency.

It is important that the European safety database is not a UIC tool and not limited or restricted to UIC members but open to all authorised sector actors and safety authorities. (Even though UIC will keep a specific right to use a specific and restricted part exclusively for its own members.)

A subset of this database would contain both "historic UIC safety data" and confidential data collected by UIC. This subset would be owned by UIC, with the access being restricted to the association and its members.

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3.2. The Transition

As already stated, CER, EIM and UIC support enhanced safety management data capture at European level. We fully believe that exchanging safety related data on European level is of benefit for the European railway sector and its stakeholders. Such a system needs to be properly established and reaching the above described vision may take some time, striving for the shortest time possible.

3.3. The Opportunities & Challenges of Using the UIC Database

Under the control of the Agency, authorities and users, UIC would act as a service provider without any preference or privilege for its members (except for the restricted subset – containing restricted data from the sector for its members). According to the internally agreed policy for its own needs and members, UIC will retain use of the collected data for its members.

3.4. Costs & Management of Using the UIC Database

Setting up the European safety database needs to be done by a professional IT company according to the finding of the Agency's COR project. This will require a budget and clear commitment on who is paying for this database. Independent of the option chosen, it should not be the UIC members who pay for the European database, when used and exploited by all sector actors and players (NSA, NIB, ERA, external stakeholders). On the other hand, UIC should continue to pay a specific fee for the use of the UIC specific perimeter.

4. The CER, EIM and UIC Position in Brief

- Strictly avoid double reporting (National & European) and keep the National Occurrence Reporting (NOR).
- Promote Occurrence Reporting (OR) in all Member States (MS).
- Create COR as add-on to NOR (Data-warehouse) – Link NOR and COR (step by step approach starting with CSIs).
- Limit the data in COR so that it is useful and exploitable on a European level.
- The Agency shall be the owner of the European safety database.
- The option of UIC to set-up and maintain the European safety database as a neutral service provider for the Agency should be considered.

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