

## Missing Links in Middle East

### Involved countries Interconnections

Turkey – Iran (One missing link (Lake Van): 2 ferries crosses on a 24-hour basis)

Turkey – Syria (Two connections for combined operation–Meydan Ekboş which is commonly used) and Qamishli /Nusaybin

Turkey – Iraq (No rail connection (only through Syria))

Syria – Iraq (One link at Yaarubiah. Second link to be established at Al Bou Kamal

Syria – Lebanon (No current connections due to severely damaged network of Lebanon)

Iraq – Iran (No current rail connection. Two missing links: Khoramshahr-Shalamcheh–Basra Arak –Kermanshah – Qasr e Shirin – Khosravi)

Syria – Jordan (No rail connection to Jordan border)

Jordan – Iraq (No rail connection between Iraq – Jordan)

Saudi Arabia – Iraq (No rail connection between Iraq – Saudi Arabia)

Saudi Arabia- Jordan(No rail connection between Saudi Arabia – Jordan)

Qatar- Saudi Arabia (No rail connection)

UAE- Saudi Arabia (No rail connection)



## **UIC RAME HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE**

*Rail Vision, Projects and Perspectives for the Middle-East –  
Towards an integrated, competitive, Rail Transport System*

**5 November 2012  
Amman, Kingdom of Jordan  
Amman Declaration**

The 1st high-level conference entitled “Rail Vision, Projects and Perspectives for the Middle-East – Towards an integrated, competitive Rail Transport System” was held on 4-5 November 2012 in Amman, Kingdom of Jordan, under the high patronage of the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources and Minister of Transport HE Mr Alaa A. Batayneh and was jointly organised by UIC, the UIC Middle East Region, the Aqaba Railway Corporation, ARC, and Jordan Hejaz Railway, JHR.

The Middle East is one of the regions with the most promising futures in rail transport. Examples of this include the ambitious plans for developing high speed in Turkey and Saudi Arabia, numerous projects in Iran, Syria and Iraq, and the projects of the Emirates and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), not to mention the reopening of lines and border connections between all these countries and international work to create long-distance freight corridors linking the Middle East to Asia and Europe (East-West corridor along the Silk Route, North-South corridor).

The main challenges for the region consist in presenting a **coherent vision for railway development in the region**, gaining support from governments and international organisations, attracting investors and business partners and contributing towards developing a competitive, safe, interoperable and cost-effective rail transport system within the Middle East and connecting it to the neighbouring regions, Asia and Europe.

**The UIC Middle East Regional Assembly aims to play a pivotal role in uniting the efforts of all the railways in the Middle East for the modernisation and expansion of their networks and gradual integration of the rail system.**

At the 1st high-level conference entitled “Rail Vision, Projects and Perspectives for the Middle-East – Towards an integrated, competitive Rail Transport System”, member railways of the UIC Middle East Region (RAME) agreed on following objectives for the development of a seamless and competitive rail transport system for the region.

#### **Objectives and actions**

- Promote the development of rail transport in the Middle East as an effective and sustainable transport system, coping with future economic and societal needs in the region;
- Contribute to the definition of a strategic vision for the development of an integrated and coherent transport system for the Middle East, in close cooperation with all stakeholders, financial institutions and international organisations, based on an analysis of the evolution of market needs and social evolutions;
- Encourage interconnections between national rail transport systems as well as with other transport modes in the region; help create new synergies through the international dimension of the future transport system;

-Cooperate with governments, international organisations and financial institutions to support the strategic vision for developing rail transport in the Middle East through international conventions and agreements and investment policies. Define the framework and content of agreements (e.g. with ECO, UNESCAP, UNECE, UNESCWA, regional banks, etc).

-Create new business opportunities and encourage partnerships with investors, intermodal partners and business partners;

-Strengthen regional cooperation between UIC Middle East member railways, particularly in the fields of technology, operations, business and training, with the objective of improving interoperability in the rail system. Refer whenever possible to UIC specifications and standards to ensure interoperability.

-Increase efforts on training programmes in order to foster a new generation of railway managers, experts and staff.

-Promote the launch of regional or multi-regional cooperation projects serving all UIC Middle East member railways, with the support of UIC.

**Amman, Kingdom of Jordan, 5 November 2012**