



**Press Release
December 13, 2010**



Partnership Between the Shoah Memorial (Paris) and SNCF For The Development of Educational Activities and Historical Research

The Shoah Memorial in Paris and SNCF established today, December 13, 2010, a partnership with two objectives:

- SNCF will work side by side with the Shoah Memorial, as it did with the Memorial's 2005 renovation, for the development of the Memorial's educational activities, students' education and teachers' training.
- The Shoah Memorial will bring its expertise and technical support to SNCF, to conduct new historical research regarding the situation and actions of the company during the Second World War.

The Shoah Memorial's Actions Supported by SNCF:

The Shoah Memorial's mission is to teach the history of the Holocaust and educate others about the circumstances under which such terrible crimes could have occurred. It thus contributes to the education of younger generations against all forms of racism, anti-Semitism, intolerance and hatred of others.

To this end, the Shoah Memorial has developed a number of awareness programs for students and teachers. It now initiates an ambitious, new education program:

For students:

- Educational workshops for K-12 students
- Guided visits to the Memorial for high school students
- Film screenings followed by discussions with historians, academics and filmmakers
- "Journeys of Remembrance" - guided visits to different Remembrance sites in the Paris region and in France
- Organization of travelling exhibits on the history of the Shoah and the genocides of the 20th century, upon request of scholarly institutions

For teachers:

- Every year the Shoah Memorial will offer a teacher training program that will take place at the Memorial itself or in different academies throughout France
- Introductory and advanced seminars for teachers, headmasters, and librarians
- Study visits to the places of deportation and destruction of European Jewry (in France: Drancy, Natzweiler/Sruthof, in Poland: Auschwitz-Birkenau) and on-site training programs

SNCF's Actions for Historical Research, Supported by the Shoah Memorial

During World War II, after the German occupation of France and the Armistice convention, the Vichy government put SNCF at Nazi Germany's disposal. In this context, Nazi and Vichy authorities forced SNCF to carry out the transportation of French Jews to internment camps in France, and after 1942 to participate in their deportation towards Nazi extermination camps.

For 20 years, SNCF has initiated actions designed to develop better knowledge of its role during WWII.

This year SNCF has decided to again launch an extensive historical research program with:

- The creation of research grants for French and international scholars.
- The creation and publication of a resource guide, in French and in English, for the archives about and from SNCF. The resource guide will be distributed free to researchers and research institutions around the world.
- The organization of a symposium on the state of knowledge about the role of railroads in Europe during World War II and publication of the research results.
- The recording of railroad workers' and witnesses' stories about SNCF's role during WWII.

SNCF will benefit from the expertise and technical support of the Shoah Memorial, the premiere center for resources and archives about the Holocaust in Europe.

SNCF and the Shoah Memorial will together create a steering committee with representatives from the Memorial, and members of its scientific board, along with representatives from SNCF (in particular from the Archives and Documentation services) to oversee these works.

The partnership convention was signed by Mr. Eric de Rothschild, president of the Shoah Memorial and by Mr. Guillaume Pepy, Chairman of SNCF, in the presence of members of the Board of Directors of the Shoah Memorial, and members of SNCF's Executive Board as well as representatives of its Board of Directors.

SNCF becomes the "principle partner company of the Shoah Memorial" for the 4-year duration of this agreement (2011-2014).

On the occasion of the signing of this convention, Eric de Rothschild, President of the Shoah Memorial, stated: *"I am very happy about the signing of this partnership convention. Our country had to wait until 1995 for a head of state to solemnly acknowledge the responsibility of the Vichy government in the persecution and deportation of French Jews. For the last 15 years, our country has made immense progress in terms of research, education and remembrance of the history of the Holocaust."*

At the same time the French State has taken numerous steps with regard to indemnification of victims, restitution of material loss, and restitution of heirless assets and properties through the creation of the Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah. Since its creation, the Shoah Memorial has tried to refine the knowledge of this history and has established as its top priority the teaching of this history so that it can be used today to banish intolerance, racism and anti-Semitism from our societies.

Today, SNCF has the same will. We are honored to accompany it in this effort. Some will call it tardy, but for us, what is important is that it has been initiated. And it is initiated with determination and responsibility, this is the meaning of the convention we have signed today."

From Guillaume Pepy, SNCF's Chairman, *"This partnership is a step in our company's long-term commitment. Today we act in three different directions: First, transparency and clarity about our past through new efforts of recognition and understanding of our situation and our actions during World War II. I am grateful for the technical help you will be providing to accomplish this historical research effort. Second, duty of remembrance about what happened during this period, without forgetting the heroism of many railroad workers. And above all, now turning to the future, the obligation to teaching and educating the younger generations."*

Press contact:

Shoah Memorial: Lucie Cazassus (Heymann-Renoult): (33) 01 44 61 76 76

l.cazassus@heyman-renoult.com

SNCF: Julie Vion-Broussailles (33) 01 53 25 63 21

julie.vion-broussailles@sncf.fr