

## SNCF Chairman visits Yad Vashem to affirm remembrance of the Shoah and acknowledge historical role



**Jerusalem, Israel – April 21, 2025** – The chairman of French national railway operator SNCF visited Yad Vashem today and reaffirmed his company's commitment to Holocaust remembrance, while further acknowledging the role SNCF played in the deportation of Jews from France.

SNCF chairman **Jean-Pierre Farandou** met with Yad Vashem Chairman **Dani Dayan**, who emphasized the importance of the visit.

"The SNCF was one of the first organizations to publicly acknowledge its role in the deportation of Jews under the Vichy government during the Holocaust. Since then it has demonstrated a strong and enduring commitment to reckoning with its history and ensuring that the memory leads to moral responsibility," said Chairman Dayan.

In a solemn reminder of the horrors committed by the Nazis and their collaborators, Chairman Dayan read a letter written by Jewish artist Yitzhak (Iso) Schonberg to his fiancée the day before he was deported to Auschwitz aboard an SNCF operated train.

SNCF Chairman Farandou spoke about the profound emotions stirred during his visit to Yad Vashem.

"Through your tireless work, the memory endures and is perpetuated. You keep it alive, like a flame that burns so that it never goes out, so that the world never forgets, so that it does not fall back into darkness, fear and obscurantism," said Chairman Farandou.

"Our main concern today is to learn the lessons of the Shoah so that such a tragedy never happens again," he said. "Because in this world of fake news, many have an interest in the facts being hidden or distorted."

Chairman Dayan stressed that SNCF has not covered its tracks and highlighted SNCF's contributions to Holocaust remembrance - notably the submission of its entire wartime archive, allowing in-depth research on the deportations. SNCF has also supported the translation of Yad Vashem's website and victims' database into French, ensuring that these historical records are accessible to a wider audience.

Chairman Farandou said that SNCF was not going to conceal its past and emphasized that "we must face history and accept its dark sides, as well as its glorious ones."

"The long-standing relationship of trust between Yad Vashem and the SNCF has enabled us to consolidate our work in two essential areas: transparency and research," he said. "Our archives for this period are open and accessible. This has always been our position and will remain so in the future: it is a moral obligation."

Both chairmen expressed their shared commitment to historical accuracy and remembrance, with Chairman Farandou concluding: "Let us continue this important work; it is our common approach to history and, above all, to remembrance."

