

EU Transport Ministers adopt CTD progress report

The Transport Ministers of EU Member States have adopted the progress report tabled by the Bulgarian Council Presidency on the Combined Transport Directive last Thursday in Luxembourg. The Intermodal Working Group of the European Council has met nearly a dozen times under the leadership of the Bulgarian Presidency during the first half of the year.

The parallel consideration of the road legislation contained in the First Mobility Package by the Transport Council has impacted the work on the Combined Transport Directive, preventing the achievement of the partial compromise desired by June.

Contentwise, the most important issues are:

- Scope: inclusion of domestic combined transport operations;
- Distance of road legs: length of permitted fixed distance and mechanism how this threshold may be exceeded;
- Legal equivalence of international road haulage and international combined transport: some Member States would like to abolish the presently declared legal equivalence.
- Transit clause: some Member States propose a new rule permitting them to withdraw every state aid measure in case only the road leg of an international combined transport operation would be carried out on their territory.

UIRR follows the developments in the Intermodal Working Group with great concern, aiming to provide regular updates and detailed background information to the Member State Ministries of Transport participating in the debate. Hopefully, as the political compromise is reached on the relevant road legislation such as access to market, posting, pay and working time of transport workers, the pressure resulting in unfavourable ideas will be relieved.



With a view to achieving a political compromise by the December Transport Ministerial Council, it is the task cut out for H.E. Norbert Hofer, Austria's Minister of Transport (picture on the left) and the Austrian Presidency that takes over the chair for the second half of 2018, to continue the legislative work in the Council from 1 July on.

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Ralf-Charley Schultze

"UIRR appreciates the enthusiasm demonstrated by the Bulgarian Presidency to advance the Combined Transport Directive amendment within the Council Working Group. The European Combined Transport Sector expects the same energy and motivation to continue during the Austrian Presidency from 1 July on, especially in view of the positive example of Austria's commitment to sustainable freight transport, intermodality and rail freight." - commented UIRR President Ralf-Charley Schultze.

Who is UIRR?

Founded in 1970, the **International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport (UIRR)** represents the interests of European road-rail Combined Transport Operators and Transhipment Terminal Managers.

Road-Rail Combined Transport (CT) is a system of freight forwarding which is based on efficiently and economically inserting electric rail into long-distance (road) transport-chains through the use of intermodal loading units (ILU).