

Combined Transpor

Q3.2023 | 13 November 2023





Annus horribilis

The sharp decline of European Combined Transport performance accelerated between July and September of this year to -16,85%. The decline exceeds the 14,67% historic quarterly contraction suffered during Q2.2020 with the worst COVID lockdowns in Europe.

2023 is rapidly becoming an annus horribilis for rail freight, pulling down Combined Transport with it. Strikes, natural disasters, a major derailment, extensive works throughout the network, extreme weather impacts exacerbated by the collapse of intercontinental intermodal railway transport due to the Ukraine war, as well as a generally weak

economic achievement, while cost increases being fuelled by persistently high traction electricity prices and inflation have contributed to the overall weak performance.

The UIRR Sentiment Index on the other hand shows a slightly less pessimistic expectation of sector decisionmakers as business sentiment for the coming 12 months improved to 'slightly negative'. Slowly improving economic performance, gradually implemented improvements to the regulatory framework and a belief that the misfortunes of 2023 cannot repeat themselves two years in a row provide a glimpse of hope.

The European Commission published 3 legislative proposals of the 4 to be contained in the Greening Freight Transport Package on 11 July:

- The Weights and Dimensions Directive amendment aims to improve the operational efficiency of trucking, while also to boost intermodal transport. UIRR concluded that the proposal delivers so strongly on the first that it borders protectionism of low-density cargo carried in trucks, while the measures proposed for intermodal fall far short of ideal.
- The new CountEmissionsEU Regulation goes much more in the right direction. A boost in confidence is needed, however, as the mandatory and all-inclusive application of the Regulation is not only justified but needed in freight transportation.
- The new Rail Infrastructure Capacity Management Regulation should similarly be viewed in a positive light. Amendments will be needed so that it can deliver the increased quantity and improved quality train paths that freight trains need.

The fourth proposal of the Greening Freight Transport Package, the long-awaited amendment of the Combined Transport Directive has been adopted on 7 November. The 4 legislative proposals of the Greening Freight Transport Package have the potential to transpose European Combined Transport from the rollercoaster it has been on since 2008 onto an upward climbing escalator similar to the one enjoyed by the sector after the adoption of the current Combined Transport Directive in 1992. Combined Transport offers the most effective, the most affordable and the lowest risk path to achieving European policy objectives that concern longer distance inland freight transportation.

Dry Port Terminals of Belgrade became the first UIRR member from Serbia, while a memorandum of understanding was signed with Transportindustriförbundet of Sweden making it the 30th MoU Peer.

Ralf-Charley Schultze – President





4th European Intermodal Summit

- an online event

at 14:00 on 28 November 2023



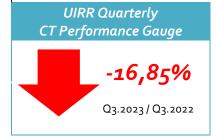


Combined Transport Delivers Exhibition - Brussels, Belgium

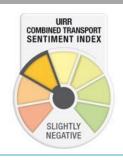
6-10 November 2023

CONTENTS

Belgium: +7,4 new passenger trains 2
Spain: new rail freight tracking system 2
Italy: €125 million of state aid for freight wagons and locomotives 2
Germany: per capita rail infrastructure investment slows in 2022 2
Channel Tunnel freight traffic declines 2
France: SNCF Fret to stop providing traction services to intermodal trains 2
Spain to upgrade Zaragoza-Barcelona line for 740m-long freight trains 2
Works-related losses must be compensated. 2
Gotthard tunnel repair to last until 09/2024 . 2 Italy: lines to be upgraded for 740m trains 2
UIRR Capacity Regulation position paper3
EDICT Project brings cQMS for freight trains 3
UIRR Greening Freight Transport Package position paper3
UIRR Weights & Dimensions position paper3
Port of Valencia to get new CT terminal3
Europe wants to go intermodal but the process is held back3
Netherlands: TLN endorses intermodal freight transportation3
Personnel News 4
Members' News 4
Key Dates & Events 4



Business outlook for the 12 months between



Combined Transport in Brief

Q3.2023 | 13 November 2023

2

Performance of Rail Freight

Belgium: 7,4% additional passenger trains to burden infrastructure

July 2023

The 2023-26 strategic plan of SNCB calls for increasing the number of passenger trains in Belgium by 7,4%. The additional trains will fall on the otherwise overloaded Belgian railway infrastructure.

<u>Link</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2655-belgiumbraces-for-74-more-passenger-trains.html

Spain: rail freight tracking system to be introduced in 2024

July 2023

ADIF, the Spanish infrastructure manager, announced the introduction of SIMPLE, its rail freight tracking system from the beginning of 2024.

<u>Link</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2654-spain-1st-ever-tracking-system-for-freight-on-rail-in-2024.html

Italy: €125 million state aid for freight wagons and locomotives

July 2023

20-30% of the acquisition price of freight wagons and locomotives will be offered from Italy's Recovery and Resilience Fund budget to the total amount of €125 million.

<u>Link</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2654-spain-1st-ever-tracking-system-for-freight-on-rail-in-2024.html

Germany: per capita rail infrastructure investment declines in 2022

July 2023

Per capita investment into the German railway infrastructure declined from €124 in 2021 to €114 in 2022, however the prioritisation of rail over road remains.

<u>Link</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2662-germany-per-capita-rail-investments-slightly-decrease-but-the-path-is-right.html

Channel Tunnel freight volumes decline during H1.2023

July 2023

Conventional freight train crossings declined by 3% during the first six months of 2023, the number of intermodal shuttle services carrying lorries contracted by 19%.

 $\underline{\text{Link}}: \underline{\text{https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2663-channel-tunnel-freight-traffic-does-not-avoid-ongoing-volume-slump.html}$

France: SNCF Fret to stop providing intermodal rail traction services

August 2023

As part of its restructuring under an illegal EU stats aid deal, SNCF Fret is to stop offering most traction services to intermodal trains from 2024. Locomotives and drivers will be made available to newcomer railways to continue supplying Combined Transport.

<u>Link</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2667-sncf-fret-to-leave-intermodal-freight.html

Spain: to expand the Barcelona-Zaragoza line for 74om trains

August 2023

The line connecting Zaragoza to Bardelona is to be upgraded by ADIF to enable the circulation of 740-metre-long freight trains using the Recovery and Resilience Fund budget.

<u>Links</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2666-750-m-program-for-standard-gauge-corridor.html

Compensation for losses suffered by freight operators due to works

August 2023

The EU or Member States should compensate the losses suffered by freight operators due to works on the infrastructure. There is no budget planned for covering such losses. <u>Links</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2676-should-the-eu-compensate-companies-losses-due-to-infrastructure-works.html

Switzerland: Gotthard Base Tunnel repairs to last until 09/2024

August 2023

SBB Infrastructure announced that the repairs of the western tube of the Gotthard Base Tunnel will last until September 2024. Until then freight trains occupy the eastern tube of the Tunnel.

<u>Links</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2686-gotthard-basistunnel-derailment-tunnel-repairs-to-take-several-months.html

Italy: southern railway lines to be upgraded for 750m freight trains

August 202

Works commenced in the Puglia Region of Italy to enable 750-metre-long freight trains to approach the Port of Brindisi. Construction will start in 2024 and be completed by 2026.

<u>Links</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2688-port-in-southern-italy-sets-out-to-handle-750-metre-freight-trains.html



Combined Transport in Brief

Q3.2023 | 13 November 2023

UIRR: Railway Capacity Regulation Position Paper published

October 2023

The position paper calls for changes in the proposed new Regulation that will ensure more and better-quality train paths for freight trains. <u>Links</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2692-press-release-rail-infrastructure-capacity-regulation.html

EDICT Project: Collaborative Quality Management System

October 2023

The EU-funded EDICT project will deliver a cQMS system that will enable effective operational quality management for regularly running freight trains. The system will consist of a manual and an IT system to support the functioning of Quality Roundtables, which bring together every actor of the production process.

Link

 $\frac{https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:71206804916}{02558976}$

Fair, Mode-neutral Regulatory Framework

UIRR: position on the Greening Freight Transport Package

September / October 2023

UIRR and its peer associations published a joint plea to keep the various components of the Greening Freight Transport Package together. In a position paper UIRR later pointed out the particular reasons for the plea from a Combined Transport perspective: the desire to improve the operational efficiency of road transport should not happen at the expense of Combined Transport.

Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2660-joint-press-release-the-greening-freight-transport-package-should-be-kept-together.html and https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2681-press-release-greening-freight-transport-protectionism-or-rebalancing.html

UIRR: Weights and Dimensions position paper

October 2023

UIRR calls for a strict no to the Weights and Dimensions Directive amendment as in its current form the proposed changes would only act to protect the dominant position of road transport in the large market segment of low-density long-distance cargo.

<u>Link</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2679-position-paper-amendment-of-weights-and-dimensions-directive.html

UIRR: position paper on new CountEmissionsEU Regulation

October 2023

The well-to-wheel calculation of every freight transport chain should be mandatory in the EU – states UIRR – and no entity should be exempt from this obligation. The Electronic Freight Transport Information (eFTI) Regulation must ensure that this will not pose an administrative burden on any service provider.

<u>Link</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2690-press-release-countemissioneu-regulation-must-be-mandatory.html

Enhancement of Intermodal Transport

Spain: Port of Valencia to get new intermodal terminal

July 2023

Rail freight will be allowed to play a greater role in providing hinterland connections to the Port of Valencia once the new transhipment facility opens by the end of 2024.

<u>Links</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2651-spanish-port-embraces-rail-with-new-intermodal-facility.html

Europe wants to go intermodal but the process is held back

August 2023

Several recent studies, including that of the European Court of Auditors, points out that while there is a general interest in shifting from road transport to intermodal throughout Europe, the process is held back by a number of factors.

<u>Link</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2668-europewants-to-go-intermodal-but-the-shift-is-being-held-back-.html

Netherlands: TLN endorses intermodal freight transport

September 2023

The powerful haulage association, TLN of the Netherlands, calls for intermodal freight transport to be ranked much more prominently on the EU political agenda.

<u>Link</u>: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2677-hanskanters-tln-about-intermodal-transport.html



Combined Transport in Brief

Q3.2023 | 13 November 2023

Personnel News

NOVATRANS GREENMODAL August 2023



Vincent Bellangé, Chairman of Novatrans-Greenmodal since May this year, will join the Board of Directors of UIRR. He succeeds Thibault Fruitier, who left Novatrans Greenmodal in August.

At the same time, José Carvalho has been appointed General Manager of the company.

RAIL CARGO GROUP August 2023



Bettina Castillo Rail Cargo Austria AG board member for production and maintenance. Bettina Castillo, who holds a doctorate in business administration, has 15 years of professional experience in logistics management and was most recently Head of Global Supply Operations Management, responsible for the development and optimization of goods flows at IKEA.

SAMSKIP DUISPORT October 2023



Volker Pohlmann will become Managing Director of Ziel Terminal GmbH as of 15 October. The joint venture founded by Samskip, Duisburger Hafen AG and TX Logistik AG operates the combined transport terminal at logport III in Duisburg-Hohenbudberg. Volker Pohlmann earlier worked for neska Schiffahrts-und Speditionskontor GmbH in Cologne and Düsseldorf as Branch Manager. His tasks at the company, which specialises in the trimodal handling of industrial and commercial goods, included business development and process optimisation.

Members' News

DRY PORT TERMINALS July 2023 New UIRR terminal member Click: https://dpterminals.rs/en/	
INTERPORTO BOLOGNA September performance report available: -20% drop in throughput September 2023 Click: https://www.interporto.it/dati-ufficiali-di-traffico-settembre-2023-a959	
METRANS Stricter weight controls of trucks and new liability rules in Czechia September 2023 Click: https://metrans.eu/monitoring-of-road-infrastructure-in-the-czech-republic/	
NAVILAND CARGO New website launched in 6 languages August 2023 Click: https://www.naviland-cargo.com	
NOVATRANS GREENMODAL August 2023 New bilingual website launched Click: https://novatrans-greenmodal.eu/en/	
RALPIN 12% more traffic handled in first 9 months of the year September 2023 Click: https://www.ralpin.ch/sites/default/files/2023-10/2023%2010%2030%20RAlpin%20Medienmitteilung%20Q3%202023%20und%20E	irg%C3%A4nzung%20VR.pdf

Key Dates & Events

ney bates a Events		
6-10 November, Brussels	CT4EU Exhibition in the European Parliament	
9 November, Berlin	SGKV Terminaltag Conference 2023	
9 November, Vienna	Combinet Tagung 2023 Conference	
13 November, Inzersdorf	CT4EU Terminal Open Day event	
15-17 November, Istanbul	Logistrans 2023	
21-22 November, Algeciras	MED and Atlantic Rail Freight Corridor Conference	
21-22 November, Istanbul	UIC/FIATA Marketplace Seminar	
21-22 November, Trieste	F&L Annual Event	
27 November , Genoα	Port of Genoa rail event	
28 November, online	European Intermodal Summit 2023	
29-30 November, Budapest	Silk Road Summit 2023	



