



Press release - 08.07.2005



## Framework agreement on quality signed

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**On 5 July 2005, UIRR Combined Transport operators, represented by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the UIRR, Mr. Eugenio Muzio, and the UIC railway undertakings represented by the Chairman of the Combined Transport Group of the UIC, Mr. Eric Peetermans, signed a framework agreement on service quality.**

A discussion lasting more than one year between the railway undertakings from the UIC Freight Forum and the UIRR companies preceded this signing. After reaching a basic agreement at the INTERUNIT (the common organisation of operators and railway undertakings) General Assembly in June, the UIRR and the UIC Freight Forum then ratified the agreement.

This convention contains a joint commitment to increase the quality of international Combined Transport. It represents a first step towards better quality of CT services by establishing in particular a framework for market discussions which will take place between the partners in the autumn with a view to drawing up axis by axis quality contracts for complete trains. The two parties agreed that there would be a first joint assessment following these market discussions by the end of this year.

The search for better quality is a common objective of the railway undertakings and operators. It will permit the improvement of Combined Transport's attractiveness and the creation of a potential for the increase of productivity for all actors in the CT chain, thus benefiting customers and supporting the European Union's policy of sustainable mobility and modal transfer.

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**International Union of combined Road-Rail transport companies**

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