



Development of transport

The UIRR Board of Directors, meeting on 23 February in Brussels, noted the provisional figures for 2004 on the development of traffic. There has been an increase of about 5% in international unaccompanied transport with swap bodies, containers and semi-trailers, and national transport has also seen positive developments, but rolling road traffic has considerably dropped. EU enlargement to the East has released road transport to and from the new member States from quota limitations. At the same time the Austrian eco-points rule expired. International road transport is now broadly liberalised – any heavy goods vehicle licensed in an EU state can offer international transport in the entire Union territory – but the liberalisation of the railways is in practice only just beginning. The differing developments in road and rail have led to Combined Transport shifting back to road. The greatest impact was felt on the rolling road, where the decrease in transport slightly exceeds the increased profits in unaccompanied transport. Detailed figures will be published in June when the consolidated European statistics are submitted to the UIRR General Assembly.

As only small increases in traffic have been achieved in recent years, UIRR is of the opinion that the aim in the Commission's White Paper to double Combined Transport by the year 2010 will be at risk if special measures are not taken.

Dual leadership

The Board also decided to restructure the directorate general of its Liaison Office in Brussels around two poles as from 1 March 2005:

- an internal pole assigned to Martin Burkhardt (former deputy director general), whose activities will mainly cover the management of the working groups, of projects and of the UIRR and
- an external pole held by Rudy Colle, who will deal with the general promotion work for Combined Transport and the defense of UIRR member companies' interests towards political Authorities and Federations concerned by a consistent development of transports in Europe.

Through this adjustment of its organisation, the UIRR intends to continue taking up efficiently the challenges of the transport sector, which is vital for the economies, and to convince it through all useful ways of the advantages to use Combined Transport.



Martin Burkhardt



Rudy Colle