

Intermodal, an effective climate solution

Intermodal freight transport is an **effective tool in the decarbonization of longer distance overland logistics**, which is viewed as an absolute necessity to save the planet in the report titled "*Global Warming of 1,5°C*" issued on 5 October 2018 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change¹.

Using intermodal loading units – containers, swap bodies and (craneable) semi-trailers (which hold the cargo carried) – **Combined Transport offers a zero-carbon solution to freight logistics:**

- The short positioning road legs of Combined Transport enable the use of electric, hydrogen or methane powered trucks to forward the loading units between a transshipment terminal and the point of origin or destination.
- At the terminals, electric cranes perform the transshipment of the loading units between the various modes of transport.
- Electric rail, barges and short-sea vessels offer, already today, the carbon-free forwarding possibility of the cargo over longer distances.

UIRR shares the concerns of scientists, responsible citizens, corporations and politicians about the future of our planet, whose atmosphere is altered by the excessive use of fossil fuels. A process that began with the large scale burning of coal to power steam engines at the onset of the industrial revolution in the second half of the 18th Century.

Later oil and most recently natural gas were added to the mix, through which carbon captured over many millennia under the crust of the Earth is released in the form of carbon dioxide into the air. Transport is the single largest sector that depends on fossil fuels, and within transport, road haulage is the main culprit.

Combined Transport offers an **effective and immediately available solution to de-carbonize** overland freight transport.

With this message, UIRR draws the attention of the public, as well as their elected politicians, to the promptly available solution to freight transport de-carbonization presented by Combined Transport. The benefits Combined Transport could deliver may be accelerated by the timely **adoption of the amended Combined Transport Directive**, which is presently under consideration in the European Council.

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¹ <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>



Ralf-Charley Schultze

"Through the radical increase of Combined Transport European policy-makers and legislators could an efficient solution not only to the problem of decarbonization of freight transport, but also to the pressing concerns of air pollution, congestion, accidents and accelerated road infrastructure degradation. The timely adoption of the amended Combined Transport Directive could be the first step in the right direction." - highlighted 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 Transshipment 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).