



The Statutory General Assembly (SGA) of the International Union of Combined Road-Rail Transport Companies (UIRR) took place on June 21, 2006 in Vienna. The annual accounts in balance, the composition of its Board of Directors as well as the development of traffic were on the agenda, whereas quality of rail service was the central issue of the discussions during the Interunit Assembly held the same day. These meetings ended with a Congress having Combined Transport in the enlarged Europe as its topic.

UIRR Board of Directors

The SGA has in the first place elected UIRR's Board members for the period 2006-2009. Are reelected: Chairman of the Board, Eugenio Muzio (Cemat); Vice-chairman of the Board, Janos Berenyi (Hungarokombi); Members: Robert Breuhahn (Kombiverkehr) Bernhard Kunz (Hupac); Jean-Luc Mélard (TRW) and Denis Petitmengin (Novatrans). Are also elected: Rok Svetek (Adriakombi) and Hermann Ungersbäck (ICA).

Traffic evolution

In 2005, UIRR companies' total traffic (number of consignments) registered an increase of 5%. Non-accompanied international rose by 15% over 2004, the progression being even more pronounced in transalpine traffic.

Globally, the UIRR companies represent more than 2/3 of all CT brought onto rail in Europe.

International accompanied CT again experienced a difficult year with a drop of consignments by 13% owing to framework conditions which have become less favorable, namely the abolition of the borders that separated the EU and the new Member States before May 2004 enlargement, and the suppression of permits which applied previously to full road transport between former and new EU Member States.

Interunit

In the context of the UIRR SGA, the Association of Railway undertakings members of the CT Group of the UIC and the UIRR operators, named Interunit, also held its annual Assembly. The discussions related essentially to the Joint Commitment on Quality of the railway services signed last July between the two parties, and to the specific quality contracts between the CT operators and the RUs. Where the number of non-punctual trains had constantly come down since 2001, this number has increased again during the last quarter of 2005 and even more in 2006, creating a very worrying situation. Meetings between all parties concerned will be held axis per axis in order to take stock and take with due priority the measures required.

This meeting has also led to enlarging Interunit's membership by opening access to all RU's also those which are not members of UIC and to all CT operators, i.e. also those not belonging to UIRR; the infrastructure managers on their side will be invited to participate in the works on specific issues.

UIRR Report 2005

On the same occasion, the UIRR has published its 2005 Report dealing with the various expressions of CT's dynamism :

The activities of the UIRR's Brussels Bureau, projects and coordination activities of the Association, and the operational work translated in the members' efficient services, i.a. in Rolling Road, in the East European countries or elsewhere through innovation. A brochure containing detailed UIRR statistics for 2005 has simultaneously been issued. These two publications are available on the following site: www.uirr.com. The annual Report is available in three languages, English, French and German, and can be obtained in printed version at UIRR'S Bureau in Brussels or via its member companies.

UIRR Congress

The Congress which the UIRR organised on June 22 on the issue of « CT ; new conditions and opportunities in the enlarged Europe » brought together more than 150 participants from all segments of the sector concerned. The panel included top level speakers such as Austria's Minister Secretary of State for Transports and Slovenia's Deputy Secretary of State. Various operators described the framework conditions in which they are brought to develop their services, in non-accompanied as well as in Rolling Road, in the "old" and the new Member States but also to/from Turkey.

Mr. Thielmann (DG. TREN) presented an up-to-date situation of the progress made in the Trans European Transport Network, whereas Mr. Verslype, Executive Director of the European Railway Agency, introduced the works of this newly set-up Agency.

Mr. Kovacs (MAV Cargo- Hungary) developed the subject of the RU's adapting to market needs by means of specialisation of their activities, which is a tendency that can also be found with CT operators. Finally, the Congress was the first to hear from Mr. Kasatsay, deputy director general of DG TREN, about the content of the mid-term revision of the 2001 White Paper on Transport, which was submitted on the same day to the European Commission by its Vice President Mr. J. Barrot.

The documentation concerning the Congress is available on UIRR's website www.uirr.com.