



Combined Transport is pulled down

The unfavourable economic trends that emerged during the third quarter of 2019 were exacerbated over the final 3 months of the year by the French railway strikes and operational disturbances related to extreme weather and works on the rail infrastructure. These effects are reflected in the quarterly CT Performance Gauge showing a year-on-year decline for the second quarter in a row.

The Climate Emergency Declaration of the European Parliament followed by the European Green Deal from the Commission offered the hope of new impetus – to be severely cooled by the news of the Mobility Package triologue deal and the apparent withdrawal of the Combined Transport Directive amendment. The sentiment of CT actors going forward has subsequently deteriorated to 'slightly negative'.

The Finnish Presidency together with newly appointed Transport Commissioner Adina-Ioana Valean and the European Parliament rapporteurs surprised the transport world when announcing the triologue compromise deal that they achieved in December last year. The compromise contains two newly invented components:

- (i) the possibility for Member States to suspend the application of Article 4 of the CT Directive 92/106 and
- (ii) the mandatory regular return of trucks to their home countries to stay there for a 'cooling-off period'.

The legal equivalence between a cross-border road haulage operation and the international Combined Transport chain that corresponds to it – as contained in Article 4 of Directive 92/106 – has been a mainstay of European Combined Transport since the EU adopted its first CT legislation in 1975. This abrupt 'innovation' – if enacted into law – would not only severely endanger existing CT-chains, but it would go against the priorities formulated under the Commission's recently announced European Green Deal initiative. UIRR places its faith into the supplementary impact assessment study that the Commission is carrying out and that this study will result in the needed changes to the triologue deal in the course of the second reading of the Mobility Package.

The destructive effects of the five weeks of French railway strikes, which commenced in early December, must also be mentioned. The circulation of freight trains was severely disrupted – with a ripple effect of undermining shipper confidence in rail freight.

Temporary compensatory measures have been announced in Norway, while the extension of support was decided in Switzerland. These measures are designed to bridge the disadvantages suffered by non-road modes of transport, in regulatory terms and fossil-fuel subsidies, when compared to trucking. The revised CT Directive should provide a firm basis for temporary compensatory measures.

2020 is a celebratory year for UIRR as the association was founded 50 years ago, in 1970. I am hopeful that while the year does not seem to be setting off on the right foot for the European intermodal sector, it will ultimately end on an upbeat note.

Ralf-Charley Schultze – President



EU Intermodal Summit

- to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of UIRR's founding

Brussels, 27 October 2020



Prague, 1-3 April 2020

CONTENTS

Belgium pledges €35bn to rail improvement	2
French rail strikes paralyse freight	2
RU Contingency Handbook unveiled	2
Ukraine announces rail liberalisation	2
UK ratifies eCMR protocol	2
Second Belgium-Basel route to be developed through France	2
Freight demand outstrips capacity in Channel Tunnel	2
US government to develop National Rail Freight Strategic Plan	2
Austria: rail sector demands cost equality	2
88% of Bavaria and Tyrol residents demand modal shift from road to rail	3
Austria doubles RoLa over the Brenner	3
Norway introduces support to CT	3
Mobility Package deal hurts CT	3
Swiss extend CT support until 2026	3
20% growth of rail CT in Gothenburg	3
China-Germany rail transit cut to 10 days	3
Ekol's Intermodal wins Business Award	3
New terminals in Cherbourg and Hannover	3
North American intermodal to modestly rebound in 2020	3
Personnel News	4
Members' News	4
Key Dates & Events	4

UIRR Quarterly CT Performance Gauge



Business outlook
 for the 12 months between
 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020



Quality Performance of Rail Freight

Belgium pledges €35bn to rail infrastructure development

November 2019

Under its plan to decarbonise the economy, the government of Belgium has pledged to spend €35 billion on rail infrastructure improvements between 2020-2030.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1260-gueterzuege-massnahmen-fuer-das-740-meter-netz.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1260-gueterzuege-massnahmen-fuer-das-740-meter-netz.html)

Railway strikes in France paralyse freight traffic

December 2019

Six weeks of strike action – commencing in early December – paralysed railway traffic in France. Only about 1 in 10 freight trains could run.

The damage is significant as shippers do not return as easily to a transport solution that caused huge problems in their supply chain as do passengers.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1342-strikes-in-france-from-5-dec-disruption-of-the-rail-infrastructure.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1342-strikes-in-france-from-5-dec-disruption-of-the-rail-infrastructure.html)

- <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1353-status-updates-strikes-in-france-on-the-snfc-reseau-network.html>
- <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1376-gntc-greves-dans-le-ferroviaire-et-les-ports-ca-suffit-.html>

Contingency Management Handbook for railway undertakings

December 2019

Rail Freight Corridor Railway Advisory Group (RFC RAG) speakers, coordinated by UIC, and the European Rail Freight Association (ERFA) jointly developed this handbook describing how RUs should act in case of an international contingency occurrence.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1355-rail-freight-coalition-publishes-contingency-management-handbook-erfa.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1355-rail-freight-coalition-publishes-contingency-management-handbook-erfa.html)

[- http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1354-rail-freight-coalition-publishes-contingency-management-handbook.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1354-rail-freight-coalition-publishes-contingency-management-handbook.html)

Ukraine announced freight railway liberalisation

December 2019

The government of Ukraine has adopted a policy to allow private enterprises to begin rail freight transport services as of 4 December 2021. The move is a precursor of the privatization of the state-owned Ukraine Railway's freight department.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1364-ukraine-moves-towards-liberalisation-of-rail-freight-sector.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1364-ukraine-moves-towards-liberalisation-of-rail-freight-sector.html)

Second Belgium-Basel connection to be developed through France

December 2019

Trans-Alpine CT carriers asked the governments of Belgium, France and Switzerland to develop a TEN-T compliant second connection in parallel to the Rhine-Alpine Rail Freight Corridor.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1356--les-transporteurs-veulent-un-2e-axe-de-transit-au-nord-de-europe.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1356--les-transporteurs-veulent-un-2e-axe-de-transit-au-nord-de-europe.html)

Freight demand outstrips capacity at Channel Tunnel

December 2019

13% year-on-year growth in the month of November and 6% overall transport volume growth in 2019 over the previous year has meant that truck queues to the "Le Shuttle" trains have grown long.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1377-demand-outstrips-supply-at-channel-tunnel.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1377-demand-outstrips-supply-at-channel-tunnel.html)

US government to develop National Rail Freight Strategic Plan

December 2019

The Plan is meant to assist infrastructure planning and support the efficiency of rail freight transport.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1366-the-us-government-develops-national-freight-strategic-plan.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1366-the-us-government-develops-national-freight-strategic-plan.html)

Fair, Mode-neutral Regulatory Framework

Austrian freight railways demand rail and road cost equality

November 2019

A political demand has been formulated towards European political decision-makers for cost equality between road and rail to be established. Measures should commence with setting equal conditions in charging for the access to the publicly owned transport infrastructure.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1320-freight-railways-see-no-cost-equality-between-rail-a-road-vr.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1320-freight-railways-see-no-cost-equality-between-rail-a-road-vr.html)

88% of Bavarian and Tyrolean residents demand modal shift from road to rail on the Brenner route

November 2019

Recently conducted opinion research shows that 88% of the population of Bavaria and the Austrian region of Tyrol demand the shifting of freight traffic from road to rail.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1323-brenner-88-in-bavaria-a-tyrol-in-favor-of-shifting-goods-from-road-to-rail.html>

RoLa capacities to be doubled on the Brenner route

December 2019

Rail Cargo Operator has announced the increase of RoLa capacities from 250.000 trucks/year to 400.000 on the Brenner route.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1361-oebb-increases-rail-capacity-for-driving-ban-tyrol.html>

Enhancement of Intermodal Transport

Norway announces compensation scheme to aid intermodal rail

December 2019

Four intermodal rail operators may benefit from the €6 million scheme to be provided by the Norwegian Railway Directorate.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1341-when-norway-helps-rail-freight-even-private-companies-mediарail.html>

Mobility Package 1 triologue agreement hurts Combined Transport

December 2019

The Finnish Presidency and the European Parliament rapporteur with the attendance of new EU Transport Commissioner Adina-Ioana Valean have reached an agreement concerning road legislation in Mobility Package 1 that would allow Member States to suspend Article 4 of the CT Directive and thereby severely impact a mainstay of European Combined transport operations.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2020/mediacentre/1369-uirr-press-release-reclassification-of-ct-road-legs-should-not-be-accepted.html>
<http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1370-eu-mobility-package-against-social-dumping-back-to-square-one.html>

Switzerland to extend CT compensation scheme until 2026

November 2019

Since the rail infrastructure will not reach the level needed to function competitively by 2020, the Swiss have decided to extend their current CT compensation scheme until 2026.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1344-nuovi-bonus-per-il-combinato-in-svizzera-transportoeuropa.html>

20% annual growth for rail intermodal in Gothenburg Port

November 2019

While overall container volumes arriving in Sweden stayed level, rail intermodal hinterland business has expanded by 20% in 2019.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1322-container-traffic-growth-is-continuing-in-sweden-worldcargo-news.html>

China to Germany intermodal rail transit time reduced to 10-12 days

November 2019

The 10-12-day transit time has been achieved on the Xian to Hamburg / -Neuss route, which beforehand used to take 17 days to complete.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1318-railfreightcom-new-record-on-china-germany-railway-link-10-12-days.html>

Ekol's intermodal model wins Business Sustainability Award

November 2019

Ekol of Turkey wins award in the Carbon Management category with intermodal transport model.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1335-ekols-intermodal-transport-model-wins-sustainability-award.html>

New terminals to be opened in Cherbourg and Hanover

December 2019

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1363-new-terminal-in-cherbourg-should-shift-channel-traffic-to-rail.html>

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1365-new-duss-terminal-hanover-will-be-fully-operational-in-april.html>

North American intermodal transport expected to rebound in 2020

January 2020

After a year of decline in 2019, North American rail intermodal transport is expected to modestly rebound in 2020.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1383-north-america-modest-intermodal-rebound-possible-in-2020.html>

Personnel News

CARGO BEAMER

January 2020



Xavier Perrin will become the Managing Director of Carbo Beamer France. Previously, Mr Perrin, was the head of Delta 3, which operates a major transhipment terminal in Dourges.

MERCITALIA INTERMODAL

December 2019



Marco Gosso will leave Mercitalia Intermodal to focus on his status as Managing Director of Mercitalia Logistics. **Andrea De Bernardi** has been named the new CEO of Mercitalia Intermodal.

MERCITALIA INTERMODAL

December 2019



Andrea De Bernardi has been named the new CEO of Mercitalia Intermodal. Mr De Bernardi was previously the Commercial Director of Mercitalia Intermodal.

Members' News

AMBROGIO TRASPORTI

November 2019

Commemoration of company's 50th Anniversary

Click: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1326-an-intermodal-pioneer-livio-ambrogio-itj.html>

CFL MULTIMODAL

December 2019

CFL Multimodal wins the ESR Label for a Socially Responsible Company

Click: <https://www.cfl-mm.lu/fr-fr/news/detail/cfl-multimodal-awarded-as-socially-responsible-com>

FELB

November 2019

1000th container train launched on Brest – Zabaikalsk route

Click: <https://www.felb.world/post/1000th-train-from-brest-to-zabaikalsk>

JOHN G RUSSELL

October 2019

50th Anniversary of the founding of John G Russell

Click: <https://www.johngrussell.co.uk/news/50-year-anniversary-newsletter/>

METRANS

November 2019

New terminal opens in Berlin

Click: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1325-metrans-opens-new-intermodal-terminal-near-berlin-railfreightcom.html>

Key Dates & Events

19-21 February 2020, Warsaw	9 th International Railway Summit
5 March 2020, Venice	Mediterranean RFC TAG/RAG meeting
17-20 March 2020, Paris	SITL Europe Exhibition
18 March 2020, Brussels	Rail Forum Europe: What the European Green Deal means for rail?
26-27 March 2020, Vienna	International Railway Congress 2020
1-3 April 2020, Prague	International Rail Freight Conference (IRFC)
21-22 April 2020, Riga	Railtech Track Access Charges Summit
11-13 May 2020, Poznan	Rail Freight Summit
13-15 May 2020, Sibenik	TEN-T Days Conference
19 May 2020, Brussels	UIRR General Assembly
26-28 May 2020, Valenciennes	EUAR Rail Safety Europe Conference
2-5 June 2020, Riga	UIC Global Rail Freight Conference (GRFC)
27 October 2020, Brussels	UIRR European Intermodal Summit



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