



2014-19: time to take stock

The European Parliament, elected in 2014, held its final plenary session last week – marking the end of the 5-year legislative period. Hence, it is logical to ask the question: what has been achieved? Regrettably, not much from the perspective of longer distance freight transport: an essential service that is vital to the daily functioning of the Common Market, whose regulation should come from the European Union.

The "good governance initiative" of the Juncker Commission has delayed by 3 years the tabling of the long-awaited amendment of the Combined Transport Directive, an inheritance in an almost-ready condition. The proposals to revise the framework rules of road haulage came similarly late. The Logistics Action-Plan of the previous Commissions was not replaced with anything. The positively viewed Electronic Freight Transport Information Regulation (eFTI) also came too late to pass, while the courage necessary to propose an amendment of the Fuel Excise Duty Directive has not been mustered.

The legacy of the Juncker Commission, when it comes to longer distance freight transport, will largely depend on what the new College of Commissioners – to assume office in November this year – will be able to achieve with the numerous inherited open dossiers. Will it be capable of delivering the paradigm shift needed to develop a fair, mode-neutral regulatory framework for freight transport within the Common Market?

The first quarter of 2019 delivered convincing growth in Combined Transport traffic, as reported by UIRR members. The poor coordination of otherwise extensive works on the railway network has caused unnecessary operational complications. The base period of a year ago has been adversely affected by the French railway strikes. The UIRR CT Sentiment Index had to be downgraded to "neutral" for the coming 12-month period in reflection of the GDP slowdown. The intermodal sector is yet to feel the effect of the policy measures designed to balance the economic conditions between the road sector and the other modes of land freight transport. Without these, the modal shift engine of traffic growth will not come to life – despite the excessive market share of longer distance trucking.

Sector level progress has been recorded during the quarter as several Rail Freight Corridors began delivering quality performance data of a statistically relevant number of freight trains running along their lines. And the picture is not pretty: quality performance of rail freight has been slightly deteriorating. The overall competitiveness of road-rail Combined Transport heavily depends on a reliable punctuality performance of the railway sector. UIRR has materially contributed to the development of these performance KPIs and will continue to assist their further development.

In the meantime, UIC published the amendments of several of its leaflets affecting Combined Transport – the result of two years of work performed with the assistance of UIRR. The ELETA and Common Rail Service Facility Portal projects have also reached substantial milestones with the active participation of the UIRR team.

Ralf-Charley Schultze – President



Exhibition and Conference
- visit the UIRR stand at Hall B6.300
Munich, 4-7 June 2019



Conference, and



15-year Anniversary Event
Munich, 5 June 2019

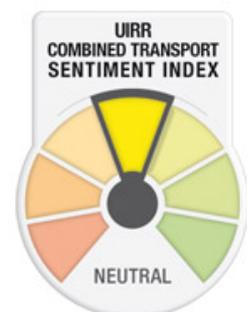
CONTENTS

Lyon-Turin line reconstruction.....	2
Ban on pocket-wagons hinders EU rail freight.....	2
Germany and Switzerland discuss rail freight.....	2
RALP RFC transport market study	2
ScanMed RFC to offer train paths aligned with terminal slots.....	2
Switzerland to cut freight train TAC.....	2
Rail freight reached pre-crisis levels.....	2
Record rail infra investments promise rail freight boom in Spain	2
EU Labour Oversight Agency created ..	3
Reduction of truck CO ₂ emissions	3
CT assists shippers hindered by truck driver shortage in France	3
IEA finds that CT is essential for rail freight.....	3
COMBINE Project to boost Baltic CT.....	3
Intermodal reached historic peak in Poland	3
Q1.2019: 54% growth of Eurasian CT ...	3
Austria increased support of CT.....	3
EP votes convincingly in favour of CT....	3
Personnel News	4
Members' News.....	4
Key Dates & Events	4

UIRR Quarterly CT Performance Gauge



Business outlook for the 12 months between 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020



Performance of Rail Freight

Lyon-Turin railway line reconstruction at the forefront of attention

March 2019

The Italian government's confidence has been shaken in the Lyon-Turin reconstruction project by a study that failed to take freight transport implications into account. The French government, as the other partner, remains convinced of the need to complete the envisioned new construction. The European Commission, as a major financier of the project, reiterated its commitment.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1135-verkehrsrundschau-fate-of-turin-lyon-railway-line-modernization-1.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1135-verkehrsrundschau-fate-of-turin-lyon-railway-line-modernization-1.html)

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1162-frankreich-haelt-an-bahnprojekt-lyon-turin-fest.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1162-frankreich-haelt-an-bahnprojekt-lyon-turin-fest.html)

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1111-eu-kommission-macht-wegen-bahntrasse-turin-lyon-druck.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1111-eu-kommission-macht-wegen-bahntrasse-turin-lyon-druck.html)

Ban on pocket-wagons leads to cost increases for EU rail freight

February 2019

The Danish government's banning of semi-trailer shipping using pocket-wagons – following the accident on 2 January – has hurt this popular mode of Combined Transport. After confirmation of the system's safety by experts, the ban has been lifted.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1109-railfreightcom-ban-on-pocketwagons-leads-to-cost-increase-european-rail-freight.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1109-railfreightcom-ban-on-pocketwagons-leads-to-cost-increase-european-rail-freight.html)

Germany and Switzerland discuss rail freight

February 2019

German and Swiss parliamentarians discussed the issues of infrastructure developments planned along several railway lines affecting both countries as well as the issue of railway noise.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1119-verkehrsrundschau-.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1119-verkehrsrundschau-.html)

The Rhine-Alpine Corridor has published its transport market study

January 2019

RALP RFC has updated its transport market study, as required by the Rail Freight Corridor Regulation. The study confirms a substantial market potential for rail freight, and prominently Combined Transport.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1123-rfc-rhine-alpine-transport-market-study-published.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1123-rfc-rhine-alpine-transport-market-study-published.html)

ScanMed RFC to offer train paths harmonized with terminal slots

March 2019

The ScanMed Rail Freight Corridor has begun to offer train paths that are aligned with slots of corridor terminals. Pilot requests can be filed with the Corridor one-stop-shop.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1140-railfreightcom-requesting-terminal-and-train-path-capacity-in-one-single-procedure.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1140-railfreightcom-requesting-terminal-and-train-path-capacity-in-one-single-procedure.html)

Switzerland to cut track access charges for freight trains as of 2021

January 2019

Increased efficiency levels achieved by SBB Infrastructure through improved management practices and progressive automation will enable a substantial reduction in the track access charges levied on freight trains in Switzerland from 2021.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1153-la-svizzera-tagliera-tariffe-per-treni-merci.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1153-la-svizzera-tagliera-tariffe-per-treni-merci.html)

Rail freight almost reached pre-crisis levels in 2017

January 2019

A recently unveiled study by consultant SCI Verkehr has found that rail freight volumes throughout the European Union have almost reached pre-crisis levels in 2017. Combined Transport is the main driver behind the growth of rail freight traffic.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1158-studie-schienengueterverkehr-in-europa-waechst.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1158-studie-schienengueterverkehr-in-europa-waechst.html)

Record investments promise rail freight growth in Spain

March 2019

Spanish rail infrastructure manager Adif is slated to spend in excess of €64 billion to modernise substantial sections of railway lines that belong to the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Rail Freight Corridors with a view to considerably boost rail freight traffic.

Upgrades to several transshipment terminals, essential for freight to access the modernised network, have been included into the plans. As a result, 750-meter-long trains will be able to access these facilities.

[Link: http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1157-interview-with-raul-miguez-bailo-deputy-director-of-adif.html](http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1157-interview-with-raul-miguez-bailo-deputy-director-of-adif.html)

Mode-neutral, Fair Regulatory Framework

EU creates labour market oversight agency

February 2019

The founding of the European Labour Authority (ELA) has been agreed by the EU co-legislators clearing the way for this new agency of the European Commission slated to oversee the fair functioning of the market.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1125-europe-creates-labour-watchdog-to-fight-against-abuses.html>

Major reduction of truck CO₂ emissions agreed within the EU

March 2019

A 55% cut to the CO₂ emissions of road transport has been agreed in the European Parliament and the Council. The target should be reached until 2030, while full de-carbonization is aimed by 2050. New trucks will be required to emit 15% fewer CO₂ by 2025 and 30% less by 2030 when compared to current levels.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1145-eu-parliament-votes-for-55-emissions-cuts-by-2030.html>

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1165-eu-parlament-bestaetigt-scharfe-klimaaufgaben-fuer-lastwagen.html>

CT assists shippers hampered by truck driver shortage in France

March 2019

After the disturbing railway strikes of 2018, Eurogroup Consulting has found that French Combined Transport assists effectively the shippers, who suffer from a truck driver shortage.

Link <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1160-franzoesischer-kombiverkehr-profitiert-vom-lkw-fahrermangel.html>

IEA finds that intermodal is key to the future of rail freight

February 2019

The International Energy Agency (IEA) found in its recent study of transport's energy use that rail freight is the most efficient and lowest emitting mode. And CT is of key importance to its future.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2019/mediacentre/1090-uirr-press-release-ieaintermodal-is-the-key-to-the-future-of-rail-freight.html>

Enhancement of Intermodal Transport

COMBINE Project to boost Combined Transport in the Baltic Region

January 2019

The kick-off meeting of the COMBINE Project, which includes UIRR as a project partner, has taken place. The project aims to make transport more efficient and environmentally friendly through an increased role for Combined Transport.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/projects/ongoing/item/25-combine-34-ongoing.html>

Intermodal transport reaches new milestone in Poland

January 2019

The volume of Combined Transport in Poland has increased by nearly 15% in 2017, thereby setting a new historic record. Double digit annual growth began in 2013.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1154-polish-intermodal-market-sets-new-milestone.html>

54% year-on-year growth during Q1.2019 in Eurasian traffic

April 2019

The dominant operator of the 1520mm broad gauge section of the New Silk Road, UTLC, has reported a 54% growth in the number of containers shipped between Europe and East Asia by train during the first quarter of 2019 as compared to a year earlier.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1163-massive-hike-of-freight-volumes-on-new-silk-road.html>

Austria increased its support of Combined Transport

February 2019

The government of Austria has increased its financial support of rail freight by over 10% to over €114 million in 2017. Most of the funds went to aid Combined Transport trains.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1161-oesterreich-foerdert-kombi-verkehr-staerker.html>

European Parliament plenary votes convincingly in favour of CT

March 2019

Prior to completing its mandate, the European Parliament reconfirmed its preference for CT by an 86% 'yes' vote.

Link: <http://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2019/mediacentre/1149-uirr-press-release-the-european-parliament-plenary-overwhelmingly-votes-for-the-combined-transport-directive.html>

Personnel News

RALPIN

25 April



René Dancet, CEO of RALpin, a leading European Rolling Motorway operator in Switzerland is leaving the company after 15 years of leadership. Mr Dancet was a member of UIRR's Board of Directors between 2013-2018.

RALPIN

25 April



Ludwig Näf was appointed CEO of RALpin in succession of Mr Dancet. Mr Näf holds a degree in business administration and an executive master's in business administration. His career has been spent in various management tasks at the Swiss Federal Railways. Ludwig Näf will focus on implementing the strategy for a sustainable rolling motorway service to efficiently cater to the anticipated significant increase in market demand. Mr Näf will take his position on 1 July.

Members' News

CFL MULTIMODAL

March 2019

CFL Multimodal extends its Combined Transport network.

Click: <http://www.cfl.lu/espaces/fret/en/group/news-et-media/communiqu%C3%A9-de-presse-tc>

COMBIBERIA

March 2019

New website launched.

Click: <http://www.combiberia.com/>

CT ENNS

March 2019

Works begin on major extension of the terminal.

Click: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1101-cte-enns-will-start-construction-works-march-2019.html>

HUPAC

April 2019

New booking system: get priority for better planning.

Click: <http://www.hupac.com/EN/NEWS-d7511d00?altlng=1>

JOHN G RUSSELL

January 2019

Celebrates the company's 50-year anniversary: 1969-2019.

Click: <https://www.johngrussell.co.uk/news/celebrating-50-years-of-russell-logistics/>

KOMBIVERKEHR

January 2019

2019: Kombiverkehr marks 50-year anniversary.

Click: https://www.kombiverkehr.de/en/service/customers/news/2019_Kombiverkehr_KG_marks_50-year_anniversary

LUGO TERMINAL

April 2019

P400 loading gauge corridor along Italy's Adriatic coast is functional – regular CT train services begin.

Click: <http://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1159-lugo-terminal-opening-of-the-profile-p400-on-the-adriatic-coast.html>

METRANS

April 2019

Zilina Terminal successfully launched.

Click: <https://www.metrans.eu/news/zilina-successfully-launched---information-from-the-metrans-ceo.html>

Key Dates & Events

9-10 May 2019, Hamburg	F&L Conference
13 May 2019, Berlin	Digitalization in Combined Transport Conference
15-16 May 2019, Brussels	UIRR Workshop and General Assembly
17 May 2019, Como	HUPAC Conference
20 May 2019, Florence	5 th Intermodal Forum – internalisation of external costs
4-7 June 2019, Munich	Transport Logistic 2019 --- ELETA Conference and CESAR 15-year Anniversary Event (5 June)
18-20 June, Birmingham	Multimodal Expo and Conference 2019
1 July 2019, Frankfurt	Kombiverkehr 50-year Anniversary event
15-18 September, Long Beach	IANA Intermodal Expo 2019
25 September 2019, Brussels	ELP European Logistics Event
9-10 October 2019, Duisburg	RALP RFC Terminal Advisory Group Meeting



INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR ROAD-RAIL
COMBINED TRANSPORT

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