



## Growth amid unprecedented conditions

Combined Transport delivered assertive growth of +6,18% during the third quarter of 2021, which came on top of a relative strong base a year ago. A steep increase in the price of oil and the continued long-distance truck driver shortage contributed to Combined Transport's growth, while flooding and strike action in Germany acted against. The Sentiment Index for the next 12 months remains 'positive' on the basis of strong confidence in the solution offered by Combined Transport in view of the challenges that the European society and our planet are facing.

While the summer begun with the unveiling of the Fit for 55 Package of legislations, which is to deliver the decarbonisation objectives contained in the European Climate Law, by the end of summer however, the focus of attention turned to the various raw material shortages, with natural gas and electricity leading the list of concerns.

European Union decisionmakers found a weak political compromise on the Eurovignette Directive, which will have to be confirmed by the European Parliament plenary before the end of the year. The European Commission also launched the drafting process for the revision of the Combined Transport Directive, which is expected to be on the table of the European legislators in November 2022.

In September, Europe was confronted with a full-blown energy crisis, which translated into record high fossil fuel and electricity prices, as well as further supply chain disturbances. The difficulties of transcontinental container shipping were exacerbated as the land route between Asia and Europe became clogged with excessive traffic, and the truck driver shortage continued to impair operations. Due to the gradual implementation of the new EU road haulage rules in the various Member States the road haulage sector had to face additional challenges to its accustomed status quo too.

Intermodal rail was also affected by the electricity price increase, but its magnitude has been dwarfed by the road rate increases caused by the jump in fuel price and the driver shortage. Combined Transport is the solution for the energy challenge, since the MJ/tkm need of a door-to-door intermodal transport chain is 50-75% less than its unimodal, long-distance trucking alternative.

The rail freight sector together with UIRR experts continued to work on several digitalisation and standardisation initiatives that will improve intermodal freight efficiency, such as Translate4Rail, TTR, CACTUS and the TAF TSI revision. The JNS procedure continued – under the coordination of the European Union Agency for Rail – on trailer transport in pocket wagons through Denmark. Major differences are yet to be bridged concerning the infrastructure-side improvements needed to prevent the recurrence of the safety incident that happened in January due to extreme crosswinds on the Great Belt Bridge.

UIRR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with its Spanish peer association, Unión de Operadores de Transporte Comodal (UOTC), a great step forward on the Iberian Peninsula.

Ralf-Charley Schultze – President

## CONTENTS

Dramatic flooding disrupts rail freight .....	2
€2bn worth of infrastructure destroyed .....	2
Poland designates less than 1% of '21-'27	
EU transfers for rail investments.....	2
Works disrupt the Silk Road rail route .....	2
Gateway terminal in Western Hungary .....	2
Electrification of highways criticised.....	2
Poland: intermodal shines amid overall decline in rail freight performance .....	2
Germany: survey finds broad public support for rail freight .....	2
Germany: freight gets track access fee waiver ..	2
France: National Plan for Rail Freight.....	2
Record rail freight market share in the Alps.....	3
Trailer transport reinstated in Denmark.....	3
Connecting Europe Express: a focus on freight ..	3
EE Intermodal Conference .....	3
Brenner ohne Grenzen demonstrator.....	3
Girtka turns to intermodal.....	3
Germany offers state aid to craneable semi-trailers .....	3
Kingpin sensor for pocket wagons could be a solution.....	3
Rail Facilities Portal survey .....	3
Personnel News.....	4
Members' News.....	4
Key Dates & Events.....	4

## UIRR Quarterly CT Performance Gauge



## Business outlook for the 12 months between 1 October 2021 - 30 September 2022



**EUROPEAN INTERMODAL SUMMIT 2021**  
online event on 30 November

**The Annual Conference of the Combined Transport Sector**

Online conference, 30 November 2021

**CT4EU**  
COMBINED TRANSPORT FOR EUROPE 2021-22

**The intermodal sector's campaign for Combined Transport in Europe**

November 2021 – November 2022

## Infrastructure capacity

### Dramatic flooding disrupts rail freight

July 2021

Heavy rainfall has caused flooding in Belgium, Germany and The Netherlands heavily impacting rail freight operations. The most severe impact was on the rail infrastructure in Belgium, where restoring traffic on some lines took well over a month.

Links: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1981-railway-lines-belgium-flooded-repair-could-take-weeks.html>  
<https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1983-floods-in-western-europe-these-railway-lines-are-affected.html>

### €2 billion worth of rail infrastructure destroyed in Germany

July 2021

The total infrastructure damage caused by the extreme summer rainfall in Germany amounted to €2 billion, which includes €1,3 billion worth of damages to railway lines.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1974-die-flut-zerstoerte-infrastruktur-im-wert-von-zwei-milliarden-euro.html>

### Poland designates less than 1% of 2021-27 EU transfers for rail

August 2021

Poland is set to receive €170 billion in transfers from the EU, only €16 billion has been slated for rail infrastructure investments.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2009-16-billion-euros-set-aside-for-rail-transport-in-poland.html>

### Works disrupt the Silk Road rail route

September 2021

Extensive construction sites along the silk road railway route, including in Malaszewicze, held up intermodal trains.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2035-baustellen-auf-der-seidenstrasse-verzoegern-gueterverkehr.html>

### Gateway terminal to be built in Western Hungary

September 2021

The construction of a gateway terminal in Zalaegerszeg has been announced to help organise the intermodal rail traffic to/from the ports of Rijeka, Koper and Trieste.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2037-baubeginn-fuer-hub-terminal-der-mettrans-in-ungarn.html>

### Electrification of highways criticised

July 2021

Autobahn electrification plans in Bavaria have been criticised by freight railways pointing to their superior efficiency, which can not be exploited due to an investment backlog in rail infrastructure.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2031-gueterbahnen-kritisieren-plaene-zu-oberleitungs-lkw.html>

## Fair, Mode-neutral Regulatory Framework

### Poland: intermodal shines amid decline in rail freight

August 2021

While total rail freight performance declined 5,6% in Poland during 2020, the performance of intermodal rail grew by 22,4%.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2013-rail-freight-poland-gets-hit-but-future-looks-bright.html>

### Germany: survey finds broad public support for rail freight

August 2021

63% of respondents to a representative public opinion survey in Germany have agreed with the need to priorities rail freight on the tracks reflecting the desire to see trucks removed from the roads.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2010-germany-clear-majority-for-prioritizing-freight-transport.html>

### Track access change waiver for freight in Germany

August 2021

The European Commission approved the extension of an existing track access change waiver scheme worth €410 million in Germany, which will pay for up to 98% of the applicable infrastructure charges of freight trains.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1993-410-million-german-state-aid-for-rail-freight-.html>

### France announces National Plan for Rail Freight

August 2021

The rail freight development plan in France plots a development path that will double the market share of rail freight from the present 9% to 18% by 2030. €170 million worth of track access charge discount has been guaranteed annually until 2024.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2032-des-aides-et-un-pacte-pour-dynamiser-le-fret.html>

## Record rail market share through Alps

September 2021

Intermodal rail had a 74,4% market share for volumes that crossed the Alps during the first half of 2021, due to infrastructure improvements enabling a greater number of suitable train paths. The total volume of traffic through the Alps grew by 15,2% since 2019.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2041-modal-split-rail-through-the-alps-highest-in-25-years.html>

## Connecting Europe Express: a focus on freight in Bettembourg

October 2021

The Connecting Europe Express, a symbolic initiative of the European Year of Rail made a stop in Luxembourg, at the Bettembourg Intermodal Terminal, which was dedicated to the issues of rail freight.

Link: [https://gouvernement.lu/en/actualites/toutes\\_actualites/communiqués/2021/10-octobre/06-bausch-connecting.html](https://gouvernement.lu/en/actualites/toutes_actualites/communiqués/2021/10-octobre/06-bausch-connecting.html)

## East European Intermodal Conference and EWG terminal visit

October 2021

A major conference in Budapest brought together intermodal stakeholders to discuss the development of the sector. The well attended event was concluded with a site visit at the gauge changing East-West Gate Terminal – under construction in Eastern Hungary.

Link: [http://mlszksk.hu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Intermodal-Conference-Program-final\\_HU\\_ENG\\_1010.pdf](http://mlszksk.hu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Intermodal-Conference-Program-final_HU_ENG_1010.pdf)

### Technical interoperability

## Brenner ohne Grenzen: a demonstration opportunity

September 2021

The European Commission will soon announce a call for proposals to demonstrate the undisrupted efficiency that rail freight is theoretically capable of between Munich and Verona along the Brenner line.

Links: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2038-pilotprojekt-will-brenner-ohne-grenzen.html>

## Girteka turns to intermodal

July 2021

Girteka, one of Europe's leading road haulage companies has launched its first intermodal rail connection from the new Kaunas Intermodal Terminal to Tilburg in The Netherlands.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1962-girteka-testet-intermodale-verbinding-zwischen-litauen-und-westeuropa.html>

## Germany offers subsidy for craneable semi-trailers

July 2021

A new programme of the German Federal Ministry of Transport offers €5.000 funding assistance for the purchase of craneable semi-trailers, which are then easy to shift to Combined Transport.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/1979-deutschland-zuschuesse-fuer-trailer-wieder-moeglich.html>

## Kingpin sensor for pocket wagons could be a solution

August 2021

The kingpin sensor presented by Nexxiot has been recognised as a viable solution to the wagon-side detection of correct closure of the kingpin holder in pocket wagons. The kingpin sensor should be an important part of the countermeasures to the safety incidents that occurred on Denmark's Great Belt Bridge in 2019 and 2021.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2004-eu-terminal-operators-convinced-by-nexxiots-kingpin-monitor.html>

## Rail Facilities Portal survey

October 2021

The [www.railfacilitiesportal.eu](http://www.railfacilitiesportal.eu) offers a one-stop source of information on the entire range of facilities for maintenance, transshipment, fueling etc. which are essential to the operators of railway services.

PLEASE TAKE 10 MINUTES AND OFFER YOUR INPUT to the survey announced for users, to take into account their requirements.

Link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=NVoa35cj4\\_2FGCF7YJDVeQ4g\\_3D\\_3D](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/?sm=NVoa35cj4_2FGCF7YJDVeQ4g_3D_3D)

## Personnel News

**AMBROGIO  
TRASPORTI**  
August 2021



**Pieralberto Vecchi** has been named CEO of Ambrogio Trasporti. Mr Vecchi held commercial and management positions in multinational companies, coordinating all company functions and working in highly competitive and result-oriented environments. Vecchi, who joined Ambrogio on 2 August, comes from DB Cargo Italia Services (DB Cargo Group) where he held the position of Managing Director since 2011. Livio Ambrogio will continue as the President of the Ambrogio Group.

**COMBIBERIA**  
July 2021



**Antonio Pérez Millán** has been appointed as CEO of UIRR's Spanish Operator member. Mr Pérez Millán has previously been Director at TCM Terminal Contenedores de Miranda and General Manager of tank-container specialist CONCISA. He also acts as President of Unión de Operadores de Transporte Comodal (UOTC), the new MoU peer of UIRR.

**LINEAS**  
September 2021



**Martijn Elbers** has been appointed Head of Sales Intermodal. Elbers, who was voted Rail Cargo Information Netherlands' railway man of the year in 2019, joins from Shuttlewise, the company he co-founded in 2008. As managing director of Shuttlewise, he has built up a network of intermodal services over the past ten years. Previously, he worked at Intermodal Solutions in Rotterdam and at Vos Logistics.

## Members' News

**CARGOBEAMER**  
September 2021

Launch of first unaccompanied cross-channel intermodal rail service across the Channel  
Click: <https://www.cargobeamer.com/news/getlink-and-cargobeamer-team-up.html>

**HUPAC**  
September 2021

Hupac takes over operation of Novara Terminal  
Click: <https://www.hupac.ch/EN/Hupac-takes-over-operations-of-Terminal-Novara-CIM-c7d83foo>

**KOMBIVERKEHR**  
August 2021

Kombiverkehr exceeds pre-coronavirus transport volumes in H1.2021  
Click: [https://www.kombiverkehr.de/en/presse/Press\\_Releases/Kombiverkehr\\_exceeds\\_pre-coronavirus\\_transport\\_volumes\\_in\\_first\\_half\\_of\\_2021](https://www.kombiverkehr.de/en/presse/Press_Releases/Kombiverkehr_exceeds_pre-coronavirus_transport_volumes_in_first_half_of_2021)

**METRANS**  
July 2021

Construction of new terminal in Zalaegerszeg (Hungary) announced  
Click: <https://metrans.eu/construction-of-the-new-metrans-terminal-in-zalaegerszeg-has-started/>

**SAMSKIP**  
June 2021

One millionth transfer from road to rail at Samskip's Duisburg Terminal commemorated  
Click: <https://www.samskip.com/news/a-milestone-for-the-duisburg-rail-terminal>

## Key Dates & Events

4 November 2021, Berlin	SGKV Terminaltag
10-12 November 2021, Istanbul	Logitrans Fair
10 November 2021, online	SGKV workshop on the CT-compatibility of semi-trailers
11 November 2021, Vienna	COMBINET Tagung 2021
16 November 2021, Brussels	Ferrmed Conference
16-18 November 2021, Budapest	Innorail 2021
17-18 November 2021, Bucharest	Club Feroviar's Railway Days
17-19 November 2021, Geneva	F&L Conference
30 November 2021, online	European Intermodal Summit 2021
30 Nov – 1 Dec 2021, Madrid	Rail Live 2021
1 December 2021, online	FEPORT's Stakeholder Conference
7-8 December 2021, Amsterdam	Silk Road Summit
19 May 2022, Brussels	UIRR General Assembly



**UIRR sc**

Address: 31 rue Montoyer  
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 548 78 90  
E-mail: [news@uirr.com](mailto:news@uirr.com)  
[www.uirr.com](http://www.uirr.com)  
Editor: Ákos Érsek, UIRR