



Recession hits Combined Transport

Combined Transport in Europe shrunk by 13,96% in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the same period a year earlier. The decline was barely shy of the 14,67% decline suffered during the second quarter of 2020 during the worst of the COVID lockdowns. Following a 6,46% contraction in the last quarter of 2022, a second consecutive negative quarter means that Combined Transport is in a temporary recession.

The UIRR Sentiment Index reflecting business sentiment for the coming 12 months remains 'negative'. Combined Transport is caught in a 'perfect storm' caused by severe rail freight punctuality issues, a train path capacity shortage, persistently high traction electricity prices, a series of impactful strikes in France and in Germany, weakening demand due to a markedly slowing economy coupled by extensive free capacities of long-distance road hauliers supported by a reduced price of fossil fuels.

UIRR proposed several solutions – all feasible under the current regulatory framework – that could ease the problems. Several were tabled during the launch meeting of the Single European Railway Area Forum (SERAF), a new and hopefully highly productive interactive channel of the European railway sector facilitated by the European Commission. Additionally, the intermodal sector continues to strongly advocate for Member States to make use of the Commission electricity power toolbox, which enables immediate intervention, while considering the deeper questions of how to complete the restructuring of the continent's electricity market.

The European legislator can signal its support through the progressive adjustment of the regulatory framework on fossil fuel excise duties, the revision of the TEN-T Regulation and the rapid adoption of the implementing regulations of the Electronic Freight Transport Information Regulation. The European Commission can express its preference through the Greening Freight Package scheduled to be released on 11 July this year.

The Combined Transport support measures adopted in several Member States during the last months should also take gradually effect. Member State governments are strongly encouraged to take note of the quick-fix solutions proposed by UIRR under the new SERAF framework.

Even in times of difficulty, the intermodal sector does not stop investing and developing its competitiveness – focusing on those factors that fall under its control. Sector investments into advanced digital solutions, new terminal capacities and rolling stock continue to come at a high pace. New connections are unveiled regularly, which reflects the confidence of the sector in the solution that it offers for highly energy efficient, very low-carbon footprint and low-externality longer distance inland freight transport services.

The UIRR community has welcomed Lahaye from France, Lotras from Italy and Duisport from Germany as new members and Evolit as partner from January this year. MoUs were signed with HUNGRAIL of Hungary and RailGood of the Netherlands. Kalmar, Greenbrier, Ports of Genoa, Touax, LTE, MEV, Infront Consulting and Aprixon all recently became supporters of the CT4EU Campaign.

Ralf-Charley Schultze – President

VDV Akademie



**4th International
Intermodal Conference**
- Magdeburg, Germany

26-27 September 2023

RAILLIVE!



**Conference and exhibition
Rail Freight Day**
- Madrid, Spain

29 November - 1 December 2023

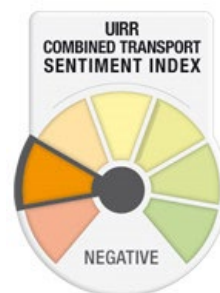
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UIRR Quarterly CT Performance Gauge



Business outlook for the 12 months between 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023



Performance of Rail Freight

National strikes in France

January 2023

The national strikes that erupted in response to the pension reform of the government heavily impacted rail freight operators. Freight trains operated by both the incumbent (SNCF) and private railway undertakings were heavily impacted.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2455-national-railway-strike-in-france-is-onagain.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2455-national-railway-strike-in-france-is-onagain.html)

Electrification and track-doubling to boost freight in Antwerp

February 2023

€30 million worth of infrastructure improvements by INFRABEL in the Port of Antwerp will boost rail freight capacity positively impacting among others the COMBINANT Terminal too.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2498-line-upgrade-to-boost-rail-freight-capacity-at-port-of-antwerp.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2498-line-upgrade-to-boost-rail-freight-capacity-at-port-of-antwerp.html)

DHL publishes vision for rail freight: for the best eco-balance

February 2023

DHL formulates specific steps needed to achieve its vision for using rail freight much more than presently. Automation, digitalisation, modernisation, standardisation, simplification interoperability and connectivity as well as regulatory harmonisation are expected.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2511-the-future-of-rail-freight-in-europe.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2511-the-future-of-rail-freight-in-europe.html)

Key Czech – German border crossing over Elbe modernised

February 2023

Reconstruction of the Elbe bridge leading to the Děčín tunnel, and the connecting lines was completed with CEF funding. The link is especially important for rail freight transport.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2510-german-czech-important-rail-freight-corridor-is-back.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2510-german-czech-important-rail-freight-corridor-is-back.html)
<https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2210-french-rail-sector-feels-forgotten-in-energy-crisis-needs-55-million-euros.html>

€1,1 billion German state aid programme offered to electric rail

February 2023

The European Commission has approved a €1.1 billion German scheme to compensate rail transport operators using electric traction in the context of the recent spike in electricity prices.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2512-state-aid-commission-approves-11-billion-german-scheme.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2512-state-aid-commission-approves-11-billion-german-scheme.html)

Germany to equalise passenger and freight trains in case of conflict

February 2023

Susanne Henckel, the BMDV State Secretary, believes that freight and passenger transport should be treated equally when there are conflicting timetables on the railways.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2527-germany-wants-to-give-priority-to-freight-trains-more-often.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2527-germany-wants-to-give-priority-to-freight-trains-more-often.html)

France pledges to invest €100 billion into rail freight until 2040

March 2023

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne announced a plan that foresees the investment of €100 billion into the French Rail infrastructure network until 2040.

[Links: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2534-france-will-invest-into-the-rail-infrastructure-up-to-100-billion-until-2040.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2534-france-will-invest-into-the-rail-infrastructure-up-to-100-billion-until-2040.html)

Germany to offer express freight train paths again from 2024

March 2023

DB Netze announced that train requests for express freight train paths will be accepted again for the 2024 timetable period. These paths were suspended in 2022 to prioritise energy-transport.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2533-express-freight-train-paths-to-return-in-germany-from-2024.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2533-express-freight-train-paths-to-return-in-germany-from-2024.html)

Fair, Mode-neutral Regulatory Framework

Tyrol publishes study underpinning its modal shift policy

February 2023

By shifting freight transport from road to rail, both enormous energy savings and the greatest reduction in greenhouse gases can be achieved. This is the result of a study commissioned by the state of Tyrol. Substantial positive results are expected to emerge especially after the completion of the Brenner Base Tunnel.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2499-2023-02-17-15-46-28.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2499-2023-02-17-15-46-28.html)

Rail Route Connect (2RC) promotes modal shift in France

January 2023

Seven companies with logistics sites across France, including new UIRR member Lahaye, joined forces with Fret SNCF to promote a massive shift of rail: Rail Route Connect (2RC).

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2454-sncf-launches-rail-route-connect-for-massive-road-to-rail-shift.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2454-sncf-launches-rail-route-connect-for-massive-road-to-rail-shift.html)

Germany: road tolls for diesel trucks will double in 2024

March 2023

Germany implemented the Eurovignette Directive by introducing new toll components that internalise external costs of road transport. The result will be a near-doubling of the Maut from 2024.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2523-german-road-tolls-for-diesel-trucks-will-double-in-2024.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2523-german-road-tolls-for-diesel-trucks-will-double-in-2024.html)

ECA: Modal shift is not fast enough

March 2023

The report of the European Court of Auditors found that the EU has missed its modal shift objectives due to ineffective actions taken during the preceding years.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2526-press-release-eu-modal-shift-targets-missed-the-intermodal-perspective.html](http://uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2526-press-release-eu-modal-shift-targets-missed-the-intermodal-perspective.html)

Enhancement of Intermodal Transport

Combined Transport saves millions of tonnes of CO₂ in Italy

March 2023

A study by Italian association Alis found that CT replaced 5,8 million truck journeys in Italy, which saved 5,3 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions in 2022.

[Links: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2547-combined-transport-saves-millions-of-tonnes-of-co2-in-italy.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2547-combined-transport-saves-millions-of-tonnes-of-co2-in-italy.html)

Switzerland: state support of ROLA services to continue until 2028

February 2023

The Swiss National Council supported the extension of state aid to accompanied Combined Transport, ROLA.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2505-2023-03-01-10-42-30.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2505-2023-03-01-10-42-30.html)

Finland's first inland intermodal terminal opens in Kouvola

February 2023

With 1100m long tracks, Kouvola become Finland's most efficient loading and unloading terminal for intermodal freight trains.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2453-finlands-first-dry-port-kouvola-rrt-goes-live.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2453-finlands-first-dry-port-kouvola-rrt-goes-live.html)

France: study puts CT's potential increase at 60% until 2027

February 2023

A recent study by Altermind for GNTC and RLE found that French Combined Transport will increase by 60% until 2027.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2508-french-combined-transport-plan-sees-60-traffic-increase-in-4-years.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2508-french-combined-transport-plan-sees-60-traffic-increase-in-4-years.html)
<https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2255-rail-instead-of-trucks-dpd-launches-parcel-transport-project.html>

Hungary: Combined Transport grew by 6,9% in 2022

March 2023

While total road freight performance decreased by 7,1%, intermodal volumes grew by nearly the same, 6,9%, in Hungary during 2022.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2542-combined-transport-grows-69-in-hungary-during-2022.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2542-combined-transport-grows-69-in-hungary-during-2022.html)

Italy: new hub terminal to open in Northwest Italy

March 2023

The Alessandria Smistamento terminal will serve as the hinterland distribution hub of Ligurian ports from 2024.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2545-new-hub-terminal-in-northwest-italy-by-2025.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2545-new-hub-terminal-in-northwest-italy-by-2025.html)

Netherlands: study to prepare new terminal in Zwolle launched

February 2023

The new Zwolle terminal with 740m long tracks is projected to begin operations in 2028 to handle significant intermodal traffic.

[Link: http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2496-a-new-rail-terminal-could-be-in-the-making-in-the-netherlands.html](http://uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2496-a-new-rail-terminal-could-be-in-the-making-in-the-netherlands.html)

North America: intermodal rail traffic declines by 10,9%

May 2023

North American intermodal rail performance declined by 10,9% during the first 18 weeks of 2023.

[Link: https://www.aar.org/news/weekly-rail-traffic-for-the-week-ending-may-6-2023/](https://www.aar.org/news/weekly-rail-traffic-for-the-week-ending-may-6-2023/)

Personnel News

FELB
March 2023



Swetlana Witjasewa-Hußmann takes over as the Managing Director for FELB Austria. With a wealth of experience in the logistics industry, Ms. Swetlana Witjasewa-Hußmann brings a fresh perspective with over 20 years of experience in both operational and managerial roles. She has held various positions in Austria, Germany and Russia, and has extensive knowledge of rail and intermodal transport solutions.

KOMBIVERKEHR
April 2023



Heiko Krebs has been appointed managing director by the Administrative Board. Within the management team he will share the duties with Armin Riedl. Mr Krebs has been in charge of Kombiverkehr's operations since 1996. He replaces Alexander Ochs, who left Kombiverkehr.

Members' News

AMBROGIO INTERMODAL April 2023	Sustainability Report 2022 published Click: https://ambrogiointermodal.com/en/news/ambrogio-germany-sustainability-report/
CFL TERMINALS March 2023	CFL Terminals launches major investment in Bettembourg co-funded by CEF grant Click: https://www.cfl-mm.lu/en-gb/news/detail/with-the-support-of-the-european-union%2c-cfl-termin
HUPAC May 2023	Hupac's traffic stagnated in 2022 while achieving a satisfactory financial result Click: https://www.hupac.com/EN/Securing-modal-shift-despite-economic-slowdown-23431700
INTERPORTO BOLOGNA March 2023	Regular monthly report of activities for March 2023 Click: https://www.interporto.it/dati-ufficiali-di-traffico-marzo-2023-ag20
KOMBIVERKEHR January 2023	Strategic partnership between Sogemar and Kombiverkehr Click: https://www.kombiverkehr.de/en/service/customers/news/Strategic_partnership_between_Sogemar_and_Kombiverkehr
LOTRAS February 2023	Substantial intermodal growth achieved by LOTRAS in 2022 Click: https://www.lotras.it/en/leggi/92/interview-with-the-ceo-rail-freighter-will-ensure-the-countrys-development-and-growth
NAVILAND CARGO March 2023	ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certifications renewed by Naviland Cargo Click: https://www.linkedin.com/company/naviland-cargo/posts/?feedView=all
SAMSKIP March 2023	Samskip, Duisport and TX Logistik to jointly operate the Logport III CT terminal in Duisburg Click: https://www.samskip.com/news/samskip-duisport-and-tx-logistik-will-jointly-operate-the-logport-iii-combined-transport-terminal-in-duisburg-in-future/
GYSEV CARGO February 2023	GYSEV Cargo will become the operator of the MACS Terminal near Debrecen Click: https://www.gysevcargo.hu/en/news/the-intermodal-container-terminal-of-the-macs-industrial-park-will-be-operated-by-gysev-cargo-zrt

Key Dates & Events

30 May, Stockholm	Rail Transport Day 2023
30-31 May, Brussels	UIRR General Assembly
7-9 June, Barcelona	SIL Exhibition – 25 th anniversary
13-15 June, Birmingham	Multimodal Birmingham Exhibition and Conference
21-23 June, Leipzig	VDV Jahrestagung
29-30 August, Gothenburg	UIRR Nordic Seminar 2023
6-7 September, Bremen	RailFreight Connects Conference
20-21 September, Baku	Black and Caspian Freight Forum
26-27 September, Magdeburg	BME-VDV 4th International Intermodal Conference 2023
6-10 November, Brussels	CT4EU Exhibition in the European Parliament
9 November, Berlin	SGKV Terminaltag Conference 2023
28 November, Brussels	European Intermodal Summit 2023
29-30 November, Madrid	Rail Live! Conference and Exhibition



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