

European CT: 2015 a tough, but positive year

European Combined Transport and UIRR Operators realised positive results in 2015: a 0.75% increase in consignments was coupled with a substantial 5.23% increase when measured in terms of tonne-kilometres, while UIRR, the industry association of the sector, increased its membership by adding 4 Operator and 3 Terminal members.

Longer distance unaccompanied CT turned a strong performance - especially when including intercontinental relations (towards Asia) - delivering growth of 7.6%. Shorter distance (domestic) CT-chains and Rolling Motorways (RoLa), on the other hand, suffered a contraction of around 5%. The average distance covered by a CT consignment expanded in 2015 to 882 kilometres.

The year-closing UIRR General Assembly on 19 May started with a consultation between Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc and the CEOs of UIRR Member companies. UIRR President Ralf-Charley Schultze presented the Commissioner the freshly published Position Paper on the need to comprehensively amend Directive 92/106¹.

Commissioner Bulc laid out the transport vision of the European Commission and explained in detail its intermodal aspects, which include

- the strong encouragement of Member States to implement the *user-pays* and *polluter-pays* principles,
- 2018-19 to be the years of focusing on linking of modes, multimodality and intermodality,
- DG MOVE will launch a full-scale impact assessment and public consultation to prepare the amendment of Directive 92/106 - the entire sector is urged to actively participate.

In response to questions from UIRR Members, the Commissioner clarified that:

- The optimal solution to decarbonising freight transport remains a question (electricity vs. oil) to be published in the EU Decarbonisation Strategy expected in July; the energy independence of the EU is a priority.
- The Commission views digitalisation as holding big potential, the threshold between proprietary (private) data versus what should be made public under the open data initiative will have to be determined.



Ralf-Charley Schultze

"As the industry association of European Combined Transport, UIRR will continue to be the professional advocate, relentless promoter, competent developer and consistent supporter of the European CT sector in the years to come so as to catalyse the achievement of modal shift in longer distance European freight transport." - highlighted UIRR President Ralf-Charley Schultze on the occasion.

Who is UIRR?

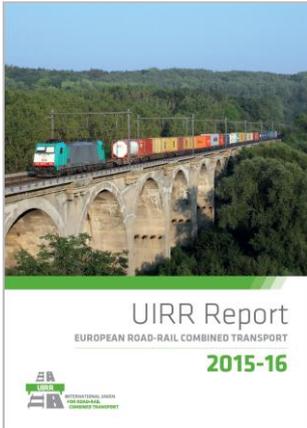
Founded in 1970, the **International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport** (UIRR) represents the interests of European road-rail Combined Transport Operators and Transshipment Terminal Managers.

Road-Rail Combined Transport (CT) is a system of freight forwarding which is based on efficiently and economically inserting electric rail into long-distance (road) transport-chains through the use of intermodal loading units (ILU).

¹ <http://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2016/mediacentre/778-intermodal-transport-warrants-for-an-eu-initiative.html>

Monday, 23 May 2016

UIRR inaugurated seven new members into the association: Ambrogio Trasporti (Italy), IMS (Austria), Rail Cargo Operator CSKD (Czech Republic), T3M (France) as CT Operator members, while Railport Arad (Romania), RCT BILK Terminal (Hungary), and ÖBB Infra's Terminal Service Austria as CT Terminal members. The General Assembly also appointed UIRR's auditor for the period of 2016-19.



The UIRR Report 2015-16, containing the statistics of members' performance, as well as an extensive description of the circumstances, challenges and outlook of European Combined Transport, has also been published.

The Report can be found here:
<http://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/annual-reports/annual-reports/mediacentre/779-uirr-annual-report-2015-16.html>

During the afternoon, Mr. Hinne Groot, from The Netherlands' Ministry for Transport and the Environment presented the achievements of the Dutch Presidency concerning transport:

- Reaching the ultimate consensus on the Fourth Railway Package,
- Advancing the issue of rail noise, and
- Developing a sector and a political statement on the future of Rail Freight Corridors, which will be presented on 21 June in Rotterdam.

Members discussed the results of the annual member satisfaction survey, the work of the six interest groups, the development of membership in the association and the status of achieving the long-term strategic aims adopted last year.

The overall objectives of UIRR, established by the Extraordinary General Assembly of 5 December 2014, were reconfirmed: accordingly UIRR will strive to promote, enhance and support European CT for the sake of growing its market share on the grounds of technical merit and management excellence.
