



## Rapid deceleration

Combined Transport in Europe contracted by 6,46% in the final quarter of 2022 compared to the same period a year earlier. With this substantial slowdown most of the growth realised over the course of the year has been reversed. Unacceptably poor railway punctuality performance coupled with skyrocketing traction electricity costs and a sharp slowdown in economic activity led to the poor result.

The UIRR Sentiment Index reflecting business sentiment for the coming 12-months has been adjusted a notch down to 'negative'. Sentiment was this low for the last time 2,5 years ago in Q2.2020 at the height of the COVID pandemic. Only few Member States made use of the electricity market intervention enabled by the emergency EU legislative action, and even fewer of those channeled the results to traction electricity users. Without effective regulatory intervention to cap traction electricity price increases at the level of diesel price changes, modal shift and the gradual reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions delivered by Combined Transport within the freight transportation sector will come to a halt. The sector also urgently needs an improvement of the punctuality performance of railway subcontractors and quality train paths from infrastructure managers.

The European Commission's postponement of the Greening Freight Package from April to late June further clouds the outlook. The late publication of the Package threatens to delay the legislative approval by up to a year. Many in the sector view the Greening Freight Package as having a similar potential for giving impetus to modal shift by Combined Transport as the adoption of the current Combined Transport Directive did in 1992.

The Roadmap to Zero-Carbon Combined Transport 2050 has been published during the European Intermodal Summit 2022, UIRR's flagship annual conference. The findings indicate that Combined Transport offers the most economic, the most effective and the lowest risk path to decarbonisation, to the improvement of energy efficiency of freight transportation and to the decoupling of Europe from its dependence on imported fossil fuels. An annual investment of €16,6 billion into rail transport infrastructure and a matching €1,5 billion investment into intermodal assets, if coinciding with the necessary regulatory alignment, could deliver the 5% year-on-year growth needed to achieve the objectives of European Union Member States. Two-thirds of the public investment needs are already part of the TEN-T pledges!

Czechia, Italy, Luxembourg and Switzerland announced new or reinforced state aid measures to be extended to rail freight. New support measures offered in France will be largely limited to single wagonload traffic, as the general rail freight assistance amounts to a fraction of the traction electricity price increase that the sector must absorb. Spain stands alone with a fairly effective scheme to curtail the increase of the traction electricity price increase. Each month of inaction by Member State governments translates to reverse modal shift resulting in more polluting road transport, not less.

UIRR concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with FERMERCI, Italy's leading rail freight association. FERMERCI will also become the national coordinator of the CT4EU Campaign.

Ralf-Charley Schultze – President

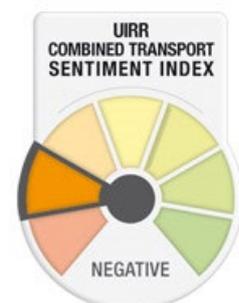
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### UIRR Quarterly CT Performance Gauge



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



Visit the UIRR-IBS Stand B6/300  
- Munich, Germany

9-12 May 2023



### Roadmap to Zero-Carbon Combined Transport 2050

Investment needs to enable decarbonisation of inland freight transportation through zero-carbon combined transport

<https://www.ct4eu.eu/studies>

## Performance of Rail Freight

### Rail Roadmap 2030 adopted in Belgium

October 2022

The action plan in Belgium to double the volume of rail freight transport by 2030 has been approved by the government. 26 concrete actions are now on the table to make “the backbone of tomorrow’s mobility” in Belgium.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2383-belgium-gives-green-light-to-rail-roadmap-2030-after-year-of-talks.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2383-belgium-gives-green-light-to-rail-roadmap-2030-after-year-of-talks.html)

### Netherlands changes capacity allocation rules against freight

October 2022

Rail freight operators in the Netherlands do not agree with the new rules on infrastructure capacity allocation preference, which goes against the interests of economic actors.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2395-rail-freight-transport-wants-to-be-given-priority-more-often.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2395-rail-freight-transport-wants-to-be-given-priority-more-often.html)

### Germany to halve aid to rail freight in 2024

October 2022

The track access charge subsidy will be halved in 2024 and ended completely from 2025. This transformation would only be acceptable if compensated by measures, such as the simultaneous conversion of TAC calculation to a marginal cost basis.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2399-2022-11-04-16-17-44.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2399-2022-11-04-16-17-44.html)

### DB Cargo surprises with steep price increase

October 2022

DB Cargo increased prices between 17-25% at a time when the road transport costs are increasing at a substantially lower pace. This undermines the competitiveness of rail freight.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2437-db-cargo-surprises-with-sharp-price-increase.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2437-db-cargo-surprises-with-sharp-price-increase.html)

### Associations raise their voice against exploding electricity prices

October 2022

The EU was urged to activate an emergency intervention to address high energy prices that will be applied to traction electricity used by freight trains. Electricity prices throughout the EU increased between 300-1,000%, while diesel prices have gone up by just 70%.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2409-rail-unions-raise-their-voices-on-increasing-electricity-prices.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2409-rail-unions-raise-their-voices-on-increasing-electricity-prices.html)

### Czechia adopts €180 million state aid scheme for rail freight

November 2022

Railway operators in the Czech Republic will benefit from a new state aid scheme worth €180 million to support RUs using electric traction.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2439-180-million-euros-to-support-electric-traction-in-czechia.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2439-180-million-euros-to-support-electric-traction-in-czechia.html)

### Soaring energy costs result in major losses for rail freight in Spain

November 2022

Soaring energy prices have resulted in a 21,6% increase in the costs of rail freight in Spain, which pushed the entire sector into a loss.

[Links: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2420-the-energy-cost-leads-freight-rail-to-negative-returns.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2420-the-energy-cost-leads-freight-rail-to-negative-returns.html)

### ERA identifies major administrative obstacles on internal EU borders

December 2022

ERA’s study identified barriers rail at border-crossing that cause significant losses of time. When it comes to rail freight, the biggest delays are caused by technical checks, inefficient real-time communication, and assigning a new train number.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2433-era-finds-substantial-administrative-obstacles-on-internal-eu-borders.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2433-era-finds-substantial-administrative-obstacles-on-internal-eu-borders.html)

## Fair, Mode-neutral Regulatory Framework

### Germany: shippers turn to rail freight to decarbonise

December 2022

Several German freight forwarders decided to move to using rail freight in their quest to reduce their carbon footprint and to contribute to sustainability.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2417-speditionen-auf-der-schiene-bahn-fahren-klima-retten.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2417-speditionen-auf-der-schiene-bahn-fahren-klima-retten.html)

## Luxembourg extends state aid for modal shift

December 2022

The EU Commission has approved a change in Luxembourg's regulation to promote the modal shift of freight transport from road to rail and inland waterway transport, extending it to 2027.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2449-luxembourg-extends-modal-shift-aid-programme.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2449-luxembourg-extends-modal-shift-aid-programme.html)

## 3rd extension of Italian modal shift aid scheme adopted

December 2022

The EU Commission has approved the scheme, which promotes a shift from road to rail providing €110 million in grants to companies using intermodal rail transport.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2448-italy-state-aid-for-modal-shift-authorized.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2448-italy-state-aid-for-modal-shift-authorized.html)

*Enhancement of Intermodal Transport*

## Combined Transport delivers decarbonisation the most cheaply

December 2022

Zero-Carbon door-to-door Combined Transport (ZCCT) could be the cheapest and easiest solution to achieving the decarbonization, energy efficiency, and energy decoupling targets of the EU if the Commission-proposed TEN-T technical parameters are implemented and the already identified bottlenecks are removed.

[Links: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2423-eur-490-billion-over-30-years-zero-carbon-ct-delivers-cheapest-decarbonization.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2423-eur-490-billion-over-30-years-zero-carbon-ct-delivers-cheapest-decarbonization.html)

## Romania: new terminal in Transylvania

October 2022

A new intermodal terminal is being built in Marosdécse for €20 million to enrich the regions intermodal infrastructure.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2412-new-terminal-under-costruction-in-transylvania.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2412-new-terminal-under-costruction-in-transylvania.html)

## Slovakia: Kosice terminal to undergo major modernisation

October 2022

The Interport Intermodal Terminal in Kosice will be substantially modernised at the total cost of €53 million – supported by a substantial EU grant from the CEF programme.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2440-kosice-terminal-to-be-modernised-for-53m.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2440-kosice-terminal-to-be-modernised-for-53m.html)

## Germany: new terminal to be built in Augsburg

November 2022

A new intermodal terminal will be constructed in Augsburg with 700m long tracks and a 100.000 unit annual throughput capacity to replace the small and obsolete Augsburg-Oberhausen terminal.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2425-2022-12-09-16-17-29.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2425-2022-12-09-16-17-29.html)

## Italy: 3 new terminals to be built in the northern regions

December 2022

€220 million will be invested into 3 intermodal terminals in Milan, Brescia and Piacenza with partial funding from the Italian and Swiss governments to cater to the increased demand in Northern Italy.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2434-a-collaboration-to-develop-3-terminals-in-northern-italy.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2434-a-collaboration-to-develop-3-terminals-in-northern-italy.html)

## Netherlands: new terminal to open in the eastern region

December 2022

Rail Terminal Gelderland to be constructed in Easter Netherlands with a budget of €67 million to enable the shifting of cargo for local producers from trucks onto freight trains travelling along the Betuwe route and beyond.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2445-one-step-closer-to-a-new-terminal-in-the-east-of-the-netherlands.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2445-one-step-closer-to-a-new-terminal-in-the-east-of-the-netherlands.html)

## North America: intermodal rail performance declines by 4,9% in 2022

December 2022

Intermodal rail transportation declined to just under 13,5 million consignments over the course of 2022, which is a reduction of 4,9% compared to a year earlier.

[Link: https://www.aar.org/news/rail-traffic-for-december-and-the-week-ending-december-31-2022/](https://www.aar.org/news/rail-traffic-for-december-and-the-week-ending-december-31-2022/)

## Personnel News

### FELB

October 2022



**Martin Ziegler** takes up the position of Head of Sales with immediate effect. Martin Ziegler spent the longest time at Hapag-Lloyd Austria, where he most recently held the position of Director Sales for eleven years ([FELB-appointment news](#)).

### ADRIA KOMBI

2023



**Robert Oražem** has been appointed Chief Operations Officer at Adria Kombi. Robert Oražem has worked for 12 years in the intermodal sector and 7 years in forwarding. Formerly, he was COO in Metrans Adria, Koper.

### UIC

February 2023



**Philip Van den Bosch** is the newly appointed Deputy Director Freight to strengthen the freight department. Philip Van den Bosch has been working for UIC since 2019 as Senior Freight Strategy Advisor on the development of rail freight, the RailFreightForward coalition and modal shift strategies. ([UIC-appointment news](#))

## Members' News

### AMBROGIO INTERMODAL

October 2022

Ambrogio obtains the Ecovadis Silver Medal

Click: <https://ambrogiointermodal.com/news/ambrogio-intermodal-ottiene-la-medaglia-dargento-ecovadis/>

### HUPAC

December 2022

Hupac takes over operation of the Köln Nord terminal

Click: <https://www.hupac.com/EN/Hupac-takes-over-operations-of-Terminal-Kln-Nord-06961800>

### KOMBIVERKEHR

June 2022

New myKOMBIVERKEHR portal goes online

Click: [https://www.kombiverkehr.de/en/service/customers/news/New\\_myKOMBIVERKEHR\\_portal\\_goes\\_online](https://www.kombiverkehr.de/en/service/customers/news/New_myKOMBIVERKEHR_portal_goes_online)

### MERCITALIA INTERMODAL

October 2022

Green Vision – Report on saving CO2 emissions

Click: [https://www.mercitaliaintermodal.it/content/mercitalia\\_intermodal/it/sala-stampa/comunicati-stampa-e-news/2023/09/26/green-vision---report-sul-risparmio-delle-emissioni-co2-.html](https://www.mercitaliaintermodal.it/content/mercitalia_intermodal/it/sala-stampa/comunicati-stampa-e-news/2023/09/26/green-vision---report-sul-risparmio-delle-emissioni-co2-.html)

### RAILPORT ARAD

November 2022

Assembly of fourth RTG cranes complete

Click: <https://www.railportarad.ro/en/news/7/the-fourth-rtg-crane>

### SAMSKIP MULTIMODAL

December 2022

Samskip is awarded the Ecovadis Gold Medal

Click: <https://www.samskip.com/news/samskip-multimodal-celebrates-receiving-the-ecovadis-gold-sustainability-medal-for-2023/>

## Key Dates & Events

6 March, Paris	<a href="#">Digital Automatic Coupling Event</a>
28-30 March, Paris	<a href="#">SITL Exhibition and Conference</a>
19-20 April, Warsaw	<a href="#">RailFreight Summit</a>
25-26 April, Amsterdam	<a href="#">EUROPE-ASIA Intermodal Logistics Forum</a>
9-12 May, Munich	<a href="#">Transport Logistic International Exhibition</a>
24-26 May, Leipzig	<a href="#">ITF Summit</a>
30-31 May, Brussels	Ordinary GA UIRR
7-9 June, Barcelona	<a href="#">SIL Exhibition – 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary</a>
13-15 June, Birmingham	<a href="#">Multimodal Birmingham Exhibition and Conference</a>
21-23 June, Leipzig	<a href="#">VDV Jahrestagung</a>
20-21 June, Rotterdam	<a href="#">European Inland Waterways Logistics Forum</a>
6-10 November, Brussels	<a href="#">CT4EU Exhibition in the European Parliament</a>
7 November, Brussels	<a href="#">European Intermodal Summit 2023</a>



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