



A slowly abating negative trend

The first three months of 2024 saw a small decline in Combined Transport performance as the conditions are slowly stabilising. The disruption to global container flows, some strikes, infrastructure works-related disturbances and the continued weak performance of the EU economy have weighed on Combined Transport, while some markets have started to show a rebound already. The business sentiment of CT decision-makers has been upgraded to “neutral”, which indicates optimism that the economy will stabilise, that externally caused disruptions will gradually dissipate and that the Gotthard and Frejus lines will return to normal operations in the Autumn. The unlikely coincidence of serious disruptions, which characterised the previous year, should be behind us.

The final months of the European Parliament’s mandate delivered the revised TEN-T Guidelines Regulation and first reading positions on the Weights and Dimensions Directive revision and the new CountEmissionsEU Regulation. The new TEN-T Regulation now includes two critical key performance indicators on freight train punctuality and border crossing, and prescribes deadlines for technical parameters such as 4-metre loading gauge, electrification and 740-metre train length.


Deliberations about the Combined Transport Directive (CTD) revision, as well as the Weights and Dimensions Directive (WDD) revision, and about the new Rail Capacity Regulation continued in the Transport Council. While the European Parliament’s first reading positions of the last two have been adopted, the deliberation about the Combined Transport Directive could only be started. UIRR delivered its position paper dedicated to the definition of combined transport operation offering a constructive and pragmatic compromise to the Commission’s proposal.

Empirical evidence of successful modal shift was presented on the 30-year anniversary of the Alpine Initiative. Simultaneously, convincing data was published on the modal shift progress in the ports of Northern Germany. UIRR advocates for the policy updates that will result in a positive change in the modal shift indicator: the creation of a level regulatory playing field through the internalisation of external costs and fair infrastructure charging, the completion of long overdue rail infrastructure upgrades and effective compensatory state aid measures to bridge the period until completion.

Digitalisation initiatives are progressing in the background such as the modernisation of the Cesar/Next tracking and tracing platform, the integration of terminals into the RNE Train Information System environment, the launch of the modernised ILU-Code website (www.ilu-code.eu) and the new UIRR Code Management Portal (www.cdm.uirr.com). The implementation of the Electronic Freight Transport Information Regulation (eFTI) is also progressing with the launch of the eFTI4EU Project to support the eFTI preparations of Member States.

We welcome CONTARGO as a new Combined Transport operator and terminal managing member of UIRR.

Ralf-Charley Schultze – President



The open access UIRR Code Management Platform (CDM)

www.cdm.uirr.com

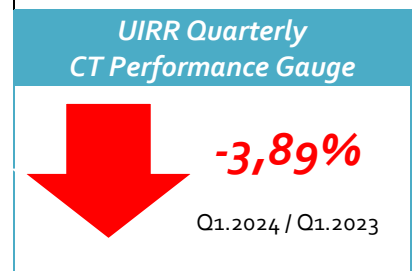


The new ILU-Code Portal - identification of European intermodal loading units

www.ilu-code.eu

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Performance of Rail Freight

Rail freight performance down in 2023: BE, FR, HU, IT

February 2024

Four countries reported rail freight performance statistics for 2023, all of which reflect a decline in performance: Belgium (- 8%), France (- 4%), Hungary (- 6,4%) and Italy (- 3,2%).

Declines in quality performance due to disturbances such as natural disasters, accidents and strikes, in combination with works-related cost increases weakened competitiveness in an otherwise stagnating economy.

Links: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2822-rail-freight-in-italy-set-back-in-2023-subsidies-are-key-to-remain-afloat.html>
<https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2817-rail-freight-declines-by-6-in-hungary-during-2023.html>
<https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2871-freight-transport-by-rail-in-belgium-at-its-lowest-level-in-seven-years.html>
and <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2873-french-reports-show-fall-in-rail-freight-market-share-and-frustration-over-strike-disruption.html>

The EU may break up DB Cargo due to extensive losses

February 2024

The EU may break up DB Cargo due to the rail freight operator's large losses, which have reached €500 million.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2841-eu-may-break-up-db-cargo-due-to-losses.html>

Germany: train drivers' strike causes disruption

January 2024

Both domestic in and transit rail freight traffic through Germany has been severely disrupted by the recent train drivers' strike.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2845-due-to-rail-strike-no-transit-trains-from-germany-through-belgium.html>

Belgium: investment of €130 million into Antwerp Port rail network

February 2024

INFRABEL announced a 10-year programme to develop the rail infrastructure in the Port of Antwerp for €130 million.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2827-infrabel-invests-hundreds-of-millions-to-upgrade-rail-operations-in-antwerp.html>

Spain: €468 million development of Algeciras-Zaragoza line

March 2024

ADIF will upgrade 43 tunnels and 131 overpasses and 13 stations to handle longer trains to enable rolling highway traffic.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2874-spain-allocates-468-millions-for-the-algeciras-zaragoza-rolling-highway.html>

France: €341 million cut from rail infrastructure investment plans

February 2024

Budget restructuring disproportionately affects transport layouts, which include €341 million in cuts to rail infrastructure works.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2819-france-cuts-hundreds-of-millions-from-transport-and-infrastructure-plan.html>

Germany: Passau corridor renovation to cause costly disruption

April 2024

The 3 bypass routes offered to freight train operators for the reconstruction works will add 160-200-320km distance to transit.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2894-german-passau-corridor-closes-for-renovation.html>

Longer passenger trains could create capacity for freight

March 2024

Requiring a minimum train length on highly utilised or congested railway lines in mixed use by both passenger and freight trains could help create the needed infrastructure capacity for freight.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2860-ralf-charley-schultze-uirr-the-capacity-of-the-lines-for-freight-transport-would-be-increased-by-the-extension-of-passenger-trains.html>

Fair, Mode-neutral Regulatory Framework

30-years of the Alpine Initiative delivered substantial modal shift

February 2024

Rail freight market share in Alpine transit has increased to 75% as a consequence of the now 30-year-old policy initiative.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2835-30-years-of-the-alpine-initiative-30-years-of-relocation-policy.html>

Performance-based truck tolls need further development

February 2024

Switzerland holds public consultations on how to extend tolling to battery-electric and hydrogen-powered trucks from 2031.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2843-performance-based-heavy-vehicle-charges-should-be-further-developed.html>

The revised TEN-T Regulation is adopted

February 2024

The revised TEN-T Regulation, which governs infrastructure development in the EU, was adopted with several favourable provisions for rail freight.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2832-european-parliament-clears-path-for-revised-ten-t-guidelines.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2832-european-parliament-clears-path-for-revised-ten-t-guidelines.html)

Combined Transport should be unleashed as energy efficiency tool

February 2024

Combined Transport, as the most effective tool to boost the energy efficiency of logistics, should be unleashed in France.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2821-combined-transport-a-driver-of-modal-shift-to-be-unleashed.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2821-combined-transport-a-driver-of-modal-shift-to-be-unleashed.html)

Germany: Combined Transport improves modal split of ports

March 2024

The Government reported a 142% increase in intermodal rail freight's share of port hinterland transport of containers, while a 36% increase in cross border performance due to 20 years of policy change.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2808-german-rail-development-indicates-shifts-in-north-sea-ports-modal-split.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2808-german-rail-development-indicates-shifts-in-north-sea-ports-modal-split.html)

Enhancement of Intermodal Transport

Netherlands: a new transshipment terminal to be built in Bergen

February 2024

A new terminal with a nominal capacity of 250.000 TEU will be built in Bergen op Zoom in the Netherlands.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2848-hessers-gets-go-for-new-container-terminal-in-bergen-op-zoom.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2848-hessers-gets-go-for-new-container-terminal-in-bergen-op-zoom.html)

Spain: Iberian gauge pocket wagons introduced

February 2024

The first batch of Iberian gauge pocket wagons of the latest T4000 (Sdggmrs) type have become available in Spain.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2829-vtg-introduces-its-intermodal-pocket-wagons-for-the-iberian-peninsula.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2829-vtg-introduces-its-intermodal-pocket-wagons-for-the-iberian-peninsula.html)

Hungary: state aid programme for trailer transport by rail

March 2024

A new state aid programme has been launched in Hungary to catalyse trailer transport by intermodal rail freight promising €150-200 per unit to shippers.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2807-hungary-grants-support-to-intermodal-trailer-transport.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2807-hungary-grants-support-to-intermodal-trailer-transport.html)

Poland: €180 million Combined Transport support plan announced

March 2024

The three-year plan to fund up to 50% of the investment costs of companies looking to start intermodal transport projects in Poland received the approval the European Commission.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2876-eu-commission-approves-180-million-euros-for-polish-intermodal-transport.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2876-eu-commission-approves-180-million-euros-for-polish-intermodal-transport.html)

UIRR: position paper on the definition of Combined Transport

February 2024

UIRR published its position paper on how the intermodal freight transport community proposes to enhance the definition of *combined transport operation* during the ongoing revision of the Combined Transport Directive. The external cost advantage of Combined Transport served as the basis for calculating a distance-based definition, which calls for "more than half" of the actual distance to be covered by non-road modes until 2035, and "at least 60%" by non-road modes from thereafter. The more lenient requirement until 2035 is explained by extensive rail infrastructure construction projects, as well as terminal extensions that would need to come in operation to support an increased non-road ratio.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2024/mediacentre/2805-press-release-combined-transport-operation-a-new-definition.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2024/mediacentre/2805-press-release-combined-transport-operation-a-new-definition.html)

North American intermodal rail freight data 2023

January 2024

Intermodal rail freight declined by -4,9% during 2023 – compared to a year earlier, in North America.

[Link: https://www.aar.org/news/weekly-rail-traffic-for-december-and-the-week-ending-december-30-2023/](https://www.aar.org/news/weekly-rail-traffic-for-december-and-the-week-ending-december-30-2023/)

Personnel News

LLI / TCA

January 2024



Johan Gemels is the winner of the Baanbrekers award of Multimodal Ambassador 2023. Johan Gemels was one of the founders of various intermodal terminals in Belgium, both bi-modal and tri-modal such as Combinant, Antwerp Main Hub, Liège Container Terminal, Liège Logistics Intermodal, Tri-Modal Terminal Brussels, Associated Terminal Operators and many others. Mr Gemels presently serves as the Chairman of TCA Rail, while he is a Director of NOVANDI/Liège Logistics Intermodal. His intermodal career began at Inter Ferry Boats (IFB), where he worked for over 17 years.

CFL

April 2024



Barbara Chevalier, the CEO of CFL Multimodal, has been appointed CEO of CFL Group's Freight Activities. Ms Chevalier succeeds Fraenz Benoy, who concluded a long career within CFL with his retirement. Barbara Chevalier joined CFL in 2010 as head of Strategy and Business Development. She previously worked for Ernst & Young and Arthur Andersen

Members' News

ADRIA KOMBI

March 2024

ISO14083-compliant CO₂ reporting available since 2023 – in line with the yet-to-be adopted CountEmissionsEU Regulation

Click: <https://www.adriakombi.si/news/traffic/836>

AMBROGIO TRASPORTI

April 2024

Arrival of 50 new intermodal rail wagons enriches the Ambrogio fleet

Click: <https://ambrogiointermodal.com/en/news/new-investment-of-50-railway-wagons/>

BALTIC RAIL

April 2024

Q1.2024 operating results

Click: <https://www.balticrail.com/baltic-rail-1q-results/>

CARGOBEAMER

January 2024

Investment into 40 new wagons to reinforce CargoBeamer capacities

Click: <https://www.cargobeamer.com/detail/flexam-invest-supports-cargobeamer-s-expansion-through-the-financing-of-40-railcars>

JOHN G RUSSELL

April 2024

Transshipment terminal acquisition

Click: <https://www.johngrussell.co.uk/news/russell-group-acquire-the-coatbridge-intermodal-rail-terminal-from-freightliner/>

KTL

January 2024

First/last mile road transport service offered with electric trucks – zero-carbon door-to-door Combined Transport

Click: <https://ktl-lu.de/en/2024/04/29/die-letzte-meile-ist-jetzt-auch-grun/>

LTG CARGO

January 2024

Klaipeda to Kiev intermodal rail connection for semi-trailer transport successfully proven

Click: <https://ltgcargo.lt/en/naujienos/ltg-cargo-and-ukrainian-railways-tested-new-kaunas-kiev-freight-route>

METRANS

February 2024

Acquisition of Adria Rail completed – terminal in Indija, near Belgrade, becomes the 20th Metrans terminal

Click: <https://metrans.eu/adria-rail-becomes-a-full-member-of-the-metrans-group/>

T3M

March 2024

The business results of 2023

Click: <https://www.t3m.fr/bilan-en-chiffres-2023-t3m/>

TERMINALI ITALIA

January 2024

A new terminal comes under the management of Terminali Italia in Bagnolo

Click: <https://www.terminaliitalia.it/it/news-e-media/news/2023/6/16/terminali-italia--nuovo-terminal-a-bagnolo-e-via-libera-al-corri.html>

Key Dates & Events

7 May, Prien	LKZ Prien 13. Symposium LOGISTIK INNOVATIV
9-11 May, Belgrade	SEEFF Southeast Europe Freight Forwarding Conference
16 May, Brussels	UIRR General Assembly
22-24 May, Leipzig	ITF Summit 2024 on Greening Transport
29 May, online	GNTC 4 th Web conference
30-31 May, Rotterdam	Europe-Asia Intermodal Logistics Forum 2024
12-14 June, Malaszewicze	Intermodal in Poland 2024 Conference
18 June, Bettembourg	Truck2Rail event
16-18 July, Strasbourg	First plenary session of the newly elected European Parliament
24-25 July, Brussels	First meeting of the European Parliament Transport Committee
11 September, Brussels	European Logistics Platform event: Logistics in a changing world



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