



## Normalising conditions contribute to growth

Improvement of conditions such as the reinstated traffic in the Gotthard Base Tunnel and the restoration of the flood-damaged railway lines in Valencia, as well as the absence of labour action, allowed the normalisation of intermodal rail freight, which delivered an increase of Combined Transport traffic performance by 2,85% during the fourth quarter of 2024. Despite the highly anticipated restart of traffic in the Maurienne Valley promised for March, the large number of works sites on the railway infrastructure coupled with sluggish manufacturing performance of the European economy, the UIRR CT Sentiment Index remains unchanged at "neutral" for the next 12 months.

Intermodal freight transport and its needs were introduced last November in Brussels to the new European Parliament with a special focus on the members of the Transport Committee during a week-long exhibition titled 'Combined Transport Delivers'. This exhibition doubled as the kick-off event of the Combined Transport for Europe (CT4EU) Campaign that is designed to bring Combined Transport closer to policymakers and economic actors throughout Europe.

External circumstances such as the war in Ukraine, the crisis and disruptions of global supply chains and the results of the European Parliament election imposed new requirements on economic and political decisionmakers. Competitiveness and resilience were driven into the focus of attention. Combined Transport demonstrated its ability to perform strongly to these requirements. Energy and infrastructure efficiency, labour productivity, accident-, fatality- and injury-prevention, reduced road congestion as well as a superior environmental and climate performance forms the foundation of Combined Transport. Intermodal actors build robust door-to-door freight transportation solutions on these traits.

Combined Transport must not wait for the development of new technologies or costly investments into an alternative fuel infrastructure. The presently existing transport infrastructure is sufficient for Combined Transport to deliver a material contribution to strengthening Europe's competitiveness and resilience. Completing ongoing European legislative initiatives and the correct imposition of existing law will doubtless further advance this performance.

UIRR launched the second phase of the CT4EU campaign with a broader objective to achieve the understanding of decisionmakers that more Combined Transport is the answer to their needs to boost the competitiveness and resilience of their supply chains. The CT4EU messages are delivered at conferences, workshops, seminars, trade shows, webinars and soon through a regular podcast as well. Audiences within both the Brussels bubble and in the Member States will be exposed to the capabilities and capacities of Combined Transport. New MoUs have been signed with associations in the Member States representing the interests of Combined transport and being involved in the campaign as national coordinators:

2025 starts in Europe under the leadership of a new College of Commissioners. Commissioner for Sustainable Transport, Apostolos Tzitziskostas, will lead the charge to complete the ongoing legislative initiatives and to assist Member States with the correct implementation of European law. The UIRR community celebrates its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025 and has recently been reinforced with Terminal Genk as a new member. We look forward to continuing our mission to advance the cause of Combined Transport.

Ralf-Charley Schultze – Director General

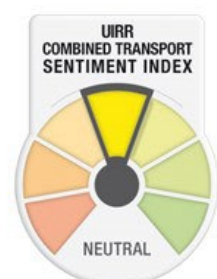
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## UIRR Quarterly CT Performance Gauge



## Business outlook for the 12 months between 1 January 2025 - 31 December 2025




**Rail Ferry webinar. Register here**  
24 February 2025 – online



**Transport Logistic Munich**  
2-5 June 2025. Come visit UIRR!

## Long-awaited railway bridge opens in Prague

October 2024

The Czech rail infrastructure manager, ZS, announced that the Braník rail bridge in Prague will now operate on two tracks. The project also increased the track speed to 100km/h.

Links: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3039-2025-01-29-16-30-01.html>

## Valencia completes the restoration of flood-damaged railway lines

December 2024

Rail freight traffic was allowed to resume on 16 December as the restoration of the C1 and C2 lines in Valencia, severely damaged in torrential rain and flooding, was completed ahead of time.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3058-valencia-flood-repair-finished-ahead-of-time.html>

## Croatia mulls a €6 billion rail infrastructure development plan

October 2024

Croatia is planning to invest a record 6 billion euros in its railway infrastructure during the coming decade. The primary beneficiary of these projects is expected to be rail freight.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3042-croatia-6-billion-euros-investment-in-freight.html>

## Germany-Netherlands: 80 weeks of works will cause difficulties

November 2024

The 80-week period of works on the "Hollandstrecke", the track in Germany that connects to the Dutch Betuwe line, began on 1 November. Rail freight transport will mostly be handled over the Brabant line, while to a lesser extent on the Bentheim route.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3052-80-weeks-of-dutch-german-border-works.html>

## Disruptive infrastructure works ongoing throughout Spain

December 2024

Three works sites along main railway lines used by freight trains are causing major disruption to rail freight traffic in Spain leading to a reverse modal shift that will last at least until March 2025.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3060-spain-series-of-problems-predicts-a-disastrous-end-of-the-year-for-the-railway.html>

## Germany: how to achieve a 30% market share for rail freight?

December 2024

Bündnis 90/Die Grünen presented a strategy on how a modal split of 30 percent in rail freight transport could be achieved in Germany. The eight-page paper is titled "Rail 2035".

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3063-germany-plan-for-the-railway-until-2035.html>

## Middle Corridor: roadmap to tripling traffic volumes

December 2024

Azerbaijan Railways (ADY) is aiming to triple the number of freight trains from the one-per-day travelling along the Middle Corridor in 2024 to at least 3 a day in 2025.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3074-how-to-triple-middle-corridor-traffic.html>

## Sweden: dramatic track access charge increases announced

December 2024

A 37% increase of track access charges was implemented in December with heavier freight trains paying even more in Sweden to adjust payments to the statutory minimum level.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3072-sweden-track-access-charges-increased-by-37-for-freight-trains.html>

## Associations speak up in support of the new Capacity Regulation

December 2024

Railway and rail freight customer associations as UIRR issued a joint statement on their expectations of the dialogue negotiations on the new Railway Infrastructure Capacity Management Regulation.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2025/mediacentre/3035-trilogues-sector-recommendations-on-the-railway-infrastructure-capacity-regulation-.html>

## Hungary: energy efficiency certificates to encourage modal shift

December 2024

Business associations recommend that a planned energy-saving measure supports the transition to intermodal transport – shifting goods transported by truck to rail. This should be enabled within the five-year, permanent energy savings package developed under the country's new Energy Efficiency Law.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3059-joint-lobbying-for-modal-shift-in-hungary-energy-efficiency-certificates.html>

## Combined Transport's Transport Policy Expectations 2024-2029

October 2024

The Combined Transport Community of UIRR published its expectations for the 2024-2029 EU legislative mandate that is running under the theme of the need for enhanced *competitiveness and resilience*.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2024/mediacentre/3024-press-release-combined-transport-policy-expectations-2024-2029.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2024/mediacentre/3024-press-release-combined-transport-policy-expectations-2024-2029.html)

## UIC-UIRR Report on the state of intermodal rail freight

November 2024

UIC and UIRR published their latest report on intermodal rail freight which not only contains information on the past trends of Combined Transport but also features a projection for its future growth.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/leaflet-and-studies/mediacentre/3031-uic-uirr-2024-report-on-combined-transport.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/leaflet-and-studies/mediacentre/3031-uic-uirr-2024-report-on-combined-transport.html)

## 22 new transshipment terminals to be built in France

October 2024

The French government published a master plan which foresees the creation of 22 new combi hubs, the extension and modernisation of existing ones at an estimated cost of €1.1 billion.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3065-france-22-new-terminals-will-aid-ct-development.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3065-france-22-new-terminals-will-aid-ct-development.html)

## Baltic Rail Gate terminal to double capacity

October 2024

The six current tracks of 600 metres each will be extended to 740 metres of usable track length, and a third crane will be installed to achieve the targeted capacity doubling.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3041-baltic-rail-gate-terminals-capacity-to-be-doubled.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3041-baltic-rail-gate-terminals-capacity-to-be-doubled.html)

## Wroclaw terminal extension completed

December 2024

At the Schavemaker intermodal terminal in Kąty Wrocławskie, work has been completed to adapt the tracks to 740m long trains. The terminal's operational capacity has been increased by 25%.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3064-poland-terminal-tracks-extended-to-740m.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3064-poland-terminal-tracks-extended-to-740m.html)

## Combined transport support secured for 2024-2028 in France

December 2024

Aid for the operation of combined transport aims to reduce the cost differential enjoyed by road haulage. The funding will enable combined transport to offer a competitive price. The European Commission approved the extension of the state aid programme.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3038-2025-01-29-16-27-20.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3038-2025-01-29-16-27-20.html)

## Hungary to step up enforcement against overweight trucks

December 2024

An enhanced axle weight measurement system, which checks the weight of trucks at 189 locations in a total of 280 traffic lanes across the road network of Hungary, started operating in December to effectively filter overweight trucks.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3051-national-campaign-to-identify-overloaded-trucks.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3051-national-campaign-to-identify-overloaded-trucks.html)

## Combined transport exhibition in the European Parliament

November 2024

UIRR produced an exhibition in the European Parliament titled *Combined Transport Delivers*. The week-long event was hosted by one of the shadow rapporteurs of the Combined Transport Directive's revision, MEP Vivien Constanzo. The second phase of the Combined Transport for Europe Campaign (CT4EU) has also been launched on this occasion.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/agenda/2024/mediacentre/3029-ct4eu-exhibition-qcombined-transport-deliversq-.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/agenda/2024/mediacentre/3029-ct4eu-exhibition-qcombined-transport-deliversq-.html)

## North American intermodal rail freight shows strong growth

December 2024

Intermodal rail freight in North America increased by 13,9% compared to a year earlier during 2024: the result was unveiled by the renowned analyst, Larry Gross, on behalf of the Intermodal Association of North America (IANA). Besides the strong fundamentals, one-off impacts were also behind the outstanding result of 2024.

[Link: https://www.intermodal.org/iana-dashboard](https://www.intermodal.org/iana-dashboard) and <https://intermodal.org/education-on-demand>

## Personnel News

**GYSEV CARGO**  
January 2025



New Head of Business Development Department

**Pete Zsolt** has been appointed as the new Head of Business Development at GYSEV CARGO Zrt., starting from January 1, 2025. With over five years of experience at GYSEV CARGO and a previous role as Head of Operations at Amber Rail a.s., he brings valuable expertise to his new position.

**DUISPORT -  
DUISBURGER HAFEN  
AG**  
January 2025



New Chief People & Corporate Services Officer

**Giordana Sperling-Doppstadt** joined the Duisport Executive Board as Chief People & Corporate Services Officer on January 1, 2025. She oversees HR, Purchasing, IT, Legal, Marketing, Accounting, and Process Management. Prior to this, she was Director of HR at RWE Offshore Wind, where she worked from 2010 to 2024.

## Members' & Partner's News

October 2024

**BALTIC Rail:**

[New investments at the Katowice – Włosienica container terminal](#)

**METRANS:**

[METRANS Rail Netherlands is officially operational with its first train in Rotterdam](#)

**SAMSKIP:**

[Awarded the highest in excellence medal for sustainability with the EcoVadis medal \(platinum rating\)](#)

**CONTARGO:**

[First fully-electric last-mile container transport between Bavaria and Bohemia](#)

November 2024

**CARGOBEAMER:**

[New type of load available: waste on two connections Kaldenkirchen-Domodossola and Domodossola-Bari](#)

**RAILPORT ARAD:**

[Fourth RTG crane, increasing capacity](#)

**DUSS:**

[New Videogate system operational at DUSS-Terminal Köln-Eifeltr](#)

**METRANS:**

[Testing Slovakia's first hydrogen-powered truck with Mobility&Innovation Production \(MIP\)](#)

**LTG CARGO:**

[LTG Cargo rolling stock depot in Radviliškis will become the most modern in the Baltic States](#)

**DUISPORT:**

[The Ports of Duisburg leads towards energy renewable transition](#)

**MERCITALIA:**

[2024 Logistics Award in the category "Innovation in Transport and Environmental Sustainability" awarded by Assologistica and Euromerci for the project "Integrated and sustainable rail-road-sea transport"](#)

**LOHR GROUP:**

[New Cherbourg-Mouguerre line: work in progress](#)

**EQUIMODAL:**

[Equimodal obtains the RSA+ award and reinforces its commitment to the Circular Economy](#)

**MODALIS:**

[Modalis won the Energy Transition & Low Carbon Award of the Grand Prix LCL GreenFlex.](#)

December 2024

**AMBROGIO  
INTERMODAL:**

[Ambrogio receives the "Logistics of the Year" award for the new intermodal terminal in Domegliara \(Verona\) in the category "transport innovation"](#)

**CAMCO TECHNOLOGIES:**

[Tailored traffic management system for DUSS Cologne: two Truck OCR Portals and seven advanced Grid Kiosks fully equipped with traffic lights and barrier gates to efficiently monitor and control vehicle movements](#)

**WASCOSA:**

[New safe tank car](#)

**GATX RAIL EUROPE**

[EcoVadis gold certification](#)

**GYSEV CARGO**

[Waberer's acquires 70% stake in GYSEV CARGO Zrt.](#)

## Key Dates & Events

11 February, Brussels (BE)	<a href="#">EDICT project – Final live conference</a>
11-14 March, Verona (IT)	<a href="#">LET EXPO</a>
18-19 March, Gdynia (PL)	<a href="#">Transport Week</a>
18-19 March, Warsaw (PL)	<a href="#">European Rolling Stock Summit</a>
1-3 April, Paris (FR)	<a href="#">SITL</a>
9-10 April, Wrocław (PL)	<a href="#">F&amp;L event thriving in changing times</a>
21 May, Brussels (BE)	<a href="#">UIRR General Assembly</a>
2-5 June, Munich (DE)	<a href="#">Transport Logistic</a>
17-19 June, Birmingham (UK)	<a href="#">Multimodal</a>
18-20 June, Barcelona (ES)	<a href="#">SIL</a>



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