

## 2017: a robust year for Combined Transport

The intermodal performance statistics collected by UIRR, from 37 members across 17 European countries, reflect a robust performance in terms of number of consignments transported using Combined Transport, which nearly reached 3.2 million full truckloads (or 6,4 million TEUs) in 2017. This constituted a 5,5% increase compared to the year before. The growth was even stronger when measured in tonne-kilometres: 2017 performance in these terms have exceeded the year before by 8,7%.



The UIRR Report 2017-18<sup>1</sup>, adopted during the Ordinary General Assembly of 17 May 2018, focuses on three main topics:

- **Quality of rail freight:** the outcome of the Rotterdam Transport Ministerial Declaration and the Sector Statement of 2016, the Rastatt incident, EU and Member State efforts to promote rail freight and externally funded R&D projects that run with UIRR contribution such as the ELETA, Optiyard and Common Portal Projects.
- **Fair, mode-neutral regulatory framework:** focusing on principles of transport policy-making, the European mobility packages and the issues that remain open, as well as funding of transport infrastructure and the EU project Aeroflex.
- **Enhancement of intermodal transport:** depicts the ongoing amendment of the Combined Transport Directive, standardisation initiatives and various services provided by UIRR to support daily operations. EU projects HubHarmony and ICONET offer the promise of improvements.

The Report features written contributions from EU Commissioner for Transport Violeta Bulc, State Secretary for Transport from The Netherlands, Stientje van Veldhoven and EPP Coordinator in the European Parliament TRAN Committee, Wim van de Camp.

UIRR, as the association of European intermodal transport, developed its membership by adding six new members, three new partners and three MoU peers during 2017.



Ralf-Charley Schultze

*"2017 has been a historic year for UIRR as the members of the association reached record traffic levels, though profitability suffered due to the Rastatt incident. The continued development of Combined Transport is in the interest of every European citizen as intermodality offers the most efficient means to insert non-road modes of transport into longer distance transport chains in Europe."* - commented UIRR President Ralf-Charley Schultze.

### 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 Transhipment 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).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/annual-reports/annual-reports/mediacentre/970-uirr-annual-report-2017-18.html>

The General Assembly elected UIRR's new Board of Directors consisting of the following leaders of the European intermodal sector:



**Thibault Fruitier,**  
Managing Director  
Novatrans and  
Greenmodal  
– leading French  
Combined Transport  
operators, part of the  
Charles André Group.



**Marco Gosso,**  
Managing Director of  
Mercitalia and  
Mercitalia Intermodal  
– the main operator  
of Combined  
Transport in Italy.



**Rainer Mertel,**  
Director Marketing at  
Kombiverkehr – one of  
Europe's largest  
Combined Transport  
operators and  
Managing Director of  
KombiConsult



**Christopher Müller,**  
Managing Director of  
Rail Cargo Operator  
– the Austrian-based  
Combined Transport  
operator specialized in  
Central Europe,  
Turkey and Eurasia.



**Irmtraut Tonndorf,**  
Director Marketing  
and Communication at  
Hupac – the Swiss  
leader of European  
Combined Transport,  
also active on the  
Eurasian Landbridge.



**Ben Beirnaert,**  
Managing Director of  
Combinant Terminal  
– an open access  
transshipment terminal  
operating within the  
Port of Antwerp.

The new Board of Directors, under the chairmanship of UIRR President **Ralf-Charley Schultze**, will oversee the development of the association of the European intermodal sector throughout the next three years, until the end of its mandate in May 2021. This will foreseeably include the adoption of the amended Combined Transport Directive, which in its current form dates back to 1992, as well as the 50-year Anniversary of UIRR's founding in October 1970.

UIRR remains committed to its mission of *'Growing the market for Combined Transport based on technical merit and management excellence'*.

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