



## Éclaircie: a brief clearing of the clouds

The second quarter of 2024 brought about a 4,25% rebound in the Combined Transport performance as some of the disturbances of the previous months did not recur. Nevertheless, the Combined Transport sector cannot consider itself out of the woods as severe works-related disruptions are projected to impact during the summer months: the Simplon route, the Passau section, the Rhine Valley, the Sofia-Nis section and in Budapest just to name but a few. The business sentiment of CT decision-makers is unchanged at "neutral", which contains an amount of optimism concerning the management of the aforementioned works-related disruptions.

Poorly coordinated infrastructure works can easily undermine the quantity and quality of Combined Transport services in several regions of Europe. Concerns about war and economic growth also remain. The Combined Transport community nevertheless continues its investments into new transport and terminal capacities, as well as in digital solutions to further enhance its competitiveness. The support of policymakers is needed to reinforce the business confidence that is the fuel for the development of our supremely efficient Combined Transport services. And the reindustrialisation of Europe requires more Combined Transport.

UIRR welcomed the newly elected European Parliament and congratulated Ursula von der Leyen upon her re-election as the President of the European Commission. The three European Parliament committees, which deal with legislation impacting Combined Transport remain Transport (TRAN), Industry and Energy (ITRE) and Environment (ENVI). The European Combined Transport Community's Transport Policy Expectations for the 2024-2029 Legislative Period will be presented to EU policymakers by the new UIRR Board of Directors in September.

The Hungarian Presidency signaled its intention to begin the triologue on the Rail Infrastructure Capacity Management Regulation as soon as possible. The Combined Transport Directive amendment was identified as a Presidency priority. UIRR will assist the Member States and the European Commission with the implementation of the revised TEN-T Regulation (2024/1679 - published on 28 June) by means of implementation position papers expected to be published in September.

Going forward, the State Aid Guidelines and the Transport Block Exemption Regulation, as well as the Track Access Charging Guidelines will keep Combined Transport stakeholders active. The latter is especially crucial, as several Member States have announced significant track access charge increases for freight users. The Combined Transport Community is asking for a compensation scheme to make up for extra operating expenses stemming from unusually excessive works-related disturbances and bypass routes. The competitiveness of Combined Transport rates can only be maintained if such assistance is provided.

Door-to-door Combined Transport delivers simultaneous energy, labour, infrastructure and environmental efficiency on a scale that its long-distance trucking alternative cannot outperform. On this basis, Combined Transport should be a fundamental building block for Europe's competitiveness, resilience and reindustrialisation.

Ralf-Charley Schultze – Director General



**EUROPEAN  
INTERMODAL  
SUMMIT 2024**

**European Intermodal Summit**  
3 December 2024 - online conference



**ReMuNet**  
Pioneering resilient and adaptive  
multimodal transport networks

**ReMuNeT Project**  
Survey on the European Intermodal  
Ecosystem: **Your input is needed!**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/3sDkBHnu9J>

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### UIRR Quarterly CT Performance Gauge



### Business outlook for the 12 months between

1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025



## Switzerland rail infrastructure works: Gotthard, Simplon

June 2024

Works have been completed on the Gotthard Base Tunnel and after testing the route will be returned to the users on 2 September 2024. Works on the Simplon route will still cause the prolonged closure of several sections between June – August.

Links: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2929-gotthard-basistunnel-wiederinbetriebnahme-am-020924.html> and <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2956-transalpine-rail-hurdle-as-simplon-route-undergoes-upgrades.html>

## Track access charge increases coming throughout Europe

May 2024

Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland announce substantial TAC increases, while there are positive exceptions such as Spain and Romania.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2926-switzerland-joins-the-club-of-countries-increasing-tacs.html> and <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2925-tacs-in-hungary-are-about-to-rise.html>

## Associations join to voice concerns about rail freight

June 2024

RailGood, NEE-Die Güterbahnen, ERFA and UIRR raised their voice to highlight the benefits of rail freight and caution transport policymakers when changing the framework conditions.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2024/mediacentre/2900-joint-paper-alliance-of-associations-calls-for-more-speed-in-european-rail-freight-transport-policy.html>

## Italy: €477 million upgrade to the Rome-Pescara line

April 2024

The project will deliver more train paths and a 40% reduction of the journey time to just 2 hours for freight trains.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2905-italy-477-million-euros-for-rome-pescara-line-upgrade.html>

## Ukraine awards contracts for new UIC-gauge line to HU-SLO border

April 2024

The 25km long Uzhhorod-Chop line will be built in 14 months – in parallel to the Lviv-Polish border line.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2904-ukraine-building-another-european-gauge-track-to-the-eu.html>

## Lithuania: UIC-gauge line to be built to Klaipeda Port

June 2024

The construction of a UIC-gauge line from Rail Baltica to the Klaipeda Port has been mulled by EU transport ministers.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2958-eus-council-of-ministers-approves-eu-gauge-railway-to-klaipeda.html>

## France: Ulysse Fret programme to bring €4bn to freight related infra

June 2024

SNCF Réseau launches a decade long infrastructure development programme targeting lines used by freight trains worth €4 billion.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2954-france-ulysses-fret-to-drive-rail-freight-growth.html>

## The rail freight stakeholders on the new Capacity Regulation

June 2024

Shippers, rail freight users and operators expressed their concerns about the Member States' position on the new Rail Infrastructure Capacity Management Regulation.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2024/mediacentre/2921-council-position-on-railway-infrastructure-capacity-regulation-will-not-improve-rail-freight-services.html>

## Italy: news on the Fréjus line and the new Terzo Valico

April 2024

Italy will prioritise freight on the Fréjus line upon its reopening now expected only in 2025. Terzo Valico should become operational only in 2026. Rail freight market share is below the EU average in Italy.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2909-italy-to-prioritise-rail-freight-when-frejus-railway-partially-reopens.html> and <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2952-italy-freight-transport-below-eu-average.html>

## Passau line renovation to cost Austrian shippers €250 million

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>

## Dimitrovgrad-Nis reconstruction works cause severe disruption

April 2024

Rail infrastructure works between Bulgaria and Serbia cause severe disruptions to the flow of rail freight traffic.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2911-ni-dimitrovgrad-rail-reconstruction-begins.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2911-ni-dimitrovgrad-rail-reconstruction-begins.html)

## Twice the EU average rail freight market share feasible

May 2024

7 key policy measures identified behind the 37% market share of rail freight achieved in Switzerland. The rate is twice the average of the European Union.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2947-switzerland-goods-rail-transport-more-than-double-the-share-of-the-eu.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2947-switzerland-goods-rail-transport-more-than-double-the-share-of-the-eu.html)

## Romania gives 33% track access charge rebate to freight operators

April 2024

Intermodal freight train operators are offered a 33% track access charge rebate in Romania.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2907-cfr-reduces-the-tui-for-intermodal-trains.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2907-cfr-reduces-the-tui-for-intermodal-trains.html)

## EU public opinion against heavy and long trucks, but in favour of CT

May 2024

A survey of 8000 citizens in 9 EU Member States (FR, DE, BE, AT, IT, PL, HU, ES and RO) uncovered grave concerns about megatrucks.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2024/mediacentre/2897-survey-finds-that-citizens-favour-combined-transport-over-bigger-and-heavier-trucks.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2024/mediacentre/2897-survey-finds-that-citizens-favour-combined-transport-over-bigger-and-heavier-trucks.html)

## Switzerland invests into terminal in Domodossola

March 2024

Switzerland will contribute €40 million to assist with the development of terminal capacities in Domodossola.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2885-switzerland-to-invest-in-cargobeamers-domodossola-terminal.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2885-switzerland-to-invest-in-cargobeamers-domodossola-terminal.html)

## Romania launches €45 million terminal development plan

April 2024

The Romanian government launched a programme to support the development of intermodal terminals worth €45 million.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2910-45-million-euros-for-development-of-multimodal-terminals-in-romania.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2910-45-million-euros-for-development-of-multimodal-terminals-in-romania.html)

## France: new intermodal terminal opened in Miramas

May 2024

A new, €40 million intermodal terminal has been commissioned in Miramas, near Marseille in France.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2913-open-modal-commission-combi-terminal-near-marseille.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2913-open-modal-commission-combi-terminal-near-marseille.html)

## Luxembourg: trailer transport systems coexist on the same terminal

July 2024

Vertical and horizontal solutions of several suppliers to tranship trailers to rail are on offer at the same terminal in Bettembourg.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2946-can-different-systems-for-semi-trailers-coexist-in-multimodal-terminals.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2946-can-different-systems-for-semi-trailers-coexist-in-multimodal-terminals.html)

## “Britain in a box” – modal shift in motion in the UK

June 2024

Modal shift from trucks to trains is being championed by intermodal transport stakeholders with the support of Network Rail in the UK.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2957-britain-in-a-box-the-rise-and-rise-of-intermodal.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2957-britain-in-a-box-the-rise-and-rise-of-intermodal.html)

## New UIRR Board of Directors: reinforced leadership

May 2024

UIRR's new Board of Directors, elected by the General Assembly on 16 May, to be Chaired by Michail Stahlhut of Hupac, supported by Vice-Chair Jürgen Albersmann of Contargo.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2024/mediacentre/2899-uirr-board-reinforces-the-associations-leadership.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2024/mediacentre/2899-uirr-board-reinforces-the-associations-leadership.html)

## North American intermodal rail freight during H1.2024

July 2024

Intermodal rail freight increased by 8,5% compared to a year earlier during the first half of 2024 in North America.

[Link: https://www.aar.org/news/weekly-rail-traffic-for-the-week-ending-in-july-13-2024/](https://www.aar.org/news/weekly-rail-traffic-for-the-week-ending-in-july-13-2024/)

## Personnel News

### RALPIN

June 2024



**Claudia Lanz-Carl** has been appointed CFO of RALpin AG. She succeeds Thomas Baettig, who has decided to pursue a new professional challenge outside the logistics sector. Claudia Lanz-Carl was CFO of an SME in the energy sector from 2021 to 2024. Prior to that, she worked as an economist at the Swiss Federal Finance Administration, where she was responsible for budget and infrastructure issues.

### UIRR

May 2024



The Board of Directors of UIRR elected **Michail Stahlhut** (Hupac) as its Chairman and **Jürgen Albersmann** (Contargo) as its Vice-Chair. **Ralf-Charley Schultze**, who served as the President of UIRR since 2014 continues as the association's Director General.

## Members' News

### AMBROGIO TRASPORTI

July 2024

2023 Sustainability Report

Click: <https://ambrogiointermodal.com/en/news/ambrogio-publishes-the-2023-sustainability-report/>

### BALTIC RAIL

July 2024

Q2.2024 terminal activity

Click: <https://www.balticrail.com/terminal-activity-q2/>

### CARGOBEAMER

July 2024

€140 million of new investment capital

Click: <https://www.cargobeamer.com/detail/cargobeamer-secures-140-million-euro-in-investment-capital>

### CT ENNS

April 2024

Wellness for your containers – container repair service started

Click: [https://www.ct-enns.at/cte\\_de/newsblog](https://www.ct-enns.at/cte_de/newsblog)

### CONTARGO

May 2024

Ground breaking for new CT terminal in Port Straubing-Sand

Click: <https://www.contargo.net/en/about-us/latest-news/detail/ground-breaking-ceremony-for-ct-terminal-in-port-straubing-sand/>

### DUISPORT

July 2024

PSA takes 22% stake in the new Duisburg Gateway Terminal

Click: <https://dgt-duisburg.de/en/news/psa-wird-neuer-gesellschafter-des-duisburg-gateway-terminals>

### HUPAC

May 2024

2023 Annual Report

Click: <https://www.hupac.com/EN/Annual-Report-2023-73a86600>

### INTERPORTO BOLOGNA

April 2024

2023 Sustainability Report

Click: <https://www.interporto.it/interporto-bologna-spa-ha-pubblicato-il-report-di-sostenibilita-2023-a994>

### KTL

May 2024

7 millionth transhipped unit achieved

Click: <https://kti-lu.de/2024/05/24/elementor-4427/>

### METRANS

June 2024

Q3.2024 surcharge update

Click: <https://metrans.eu/update-on-the-rail-infrastructure-surcharge/>

### SAMSKIP

July 2024

2023 Sustainability Report

Click: <https://sustainability.samskip.com/>

### SAMSKIP

July 2024

Strategic alliance with Matrans to open new Rotterdam hub terminal

Click: <https://www.samskip.com/samskip-and-matrans>

## Key Dates & Events

21 – 22 August, Prague	Prague Rail Summit
28 – 29 August, Stockholm	UIRR Nordic Seminar
17 – 19 September, Baku	Black and Caspian Freight Forum
24 – 26 September, Berlin	InnoTrans
2 October, Strasbourg	EU Mobility Expo
16 October, online	ERA "Budapest" Workshop
18 October, Budapest	MLSZKSZ Intermodal Conference
10-11 October, Istanbul	52nd IBS Congress
5-7 November, Warsaw	Trans Logistica
13 November, Brussels	FERRMED Conference
27 – 28 November, Vienna	European Silk Road Summit



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