



A second consecutive positive quarter

On the back of a weaker quarter a year ago, Combined Transport's performance grew year-on-year by 1,76% during the first three months of 2025. The reopening of the Frejus line on the last day of March returned to service the most efficient and highest capacity route between France and Italy, which should be adequate cause for optimism. Nevertheless, the disruptions to global trade caused by the unexpected U.S. tariffs in combination with a lagging economic performance of the EU, leaves the UIRR CT Sentiment Index unchanged at "neutral" for the next 12 months.

Work carried out by DB InfraGo on the railway infrastructure network in Germany as part of the concept of "Generalsanierung" (general renovation), which results in prolonged full line closures, have been leading to unprecedented difficulties for freight trains. Inferior bypass options with limited capacities place a cap on Combined Transport performance, while causing unbearable additional costs for the operators. UIRR, together with several sector associations, has been demanding compensation for these unforeseen and unusually high extra costs. They should be built into the works budgets and automatically extended to freight operators forced to use the bypass train paths.

Combined Transport, as the only dynamically growing production system of rail freight, delivers over 50% of rail freight tonne-kilometres, corresponding to about 10% of Europe's door-to-door land freight transport. The substantial upside potential of Combined Transport is rooted in its robust energy, labour, safety, infrastructure and environmental efficiency performance in comparison to the long-distance trucking alternative – as uncovered in the study published at the European Intermodal Summit in January. On these fundamentals, a large portion of the 1.000 billion tkm delivered annually by long-distance trucks could and should shift to Combined Transport.

This empirical study, the fourth produced in the context of the CT4EU Campaign, examines the efficiencies of door-to-door Combined Transport in comparison to its Euro6 diesel-powered long-distance trucking alternative. The efficiencies uncovered rhyme well with the new themes of the European Union characterised by the Clean Industrial Deal and the drive towards enhanced competitiveness and resilience. Accordingly, today's Combined Transport is 70% more energy efficient, 60% more labour efficient, 50% more infrastructure efficient and over 90% better in terms of safety and road accident prevention, CO₂ and pollutant emissions. These are values that cannot be matched by any technology on the table or under consideration to improve road transport. Should Combined Transport become the backbone of longer distance land freight transport in Europe, the savings to be pocketed by citizens, economic actors and public budgets would exceed €200 billion annually.

New terminal members [Afluent](#) from Romania, [CLIP](#) from Poland, and [Van Der Vlist](#) from The Netherlands joined the UIRR Community, alongside Technical Partners [Rekenentra](#) from Belgium, [Tatravagonka](#) from Slovakia and [Wascosa](#) from Switzerland.

We look forward to continuing our mission to advance the cause of Combined Transport.

Ralf-Charley Schultze – Director General

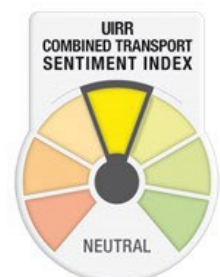
CONTENTS

France-Italy rail line Frejus reopens.....	2
Open letter for a stronger MFF for transport	2
NL rail freight policy plan criticised	2
Sweden warned for inadequate transport infrastructure funding outlays	2
Associations speak up on the Rail Infrastructure Capacity Regulation	2
Rail freight loses on Transalpine relations ...	2
HGVs cause motorway congestions.....	2
Driver License Dir: a missed opportunity.....	2
Military Mobility to use Combined Transport 2	
Pillar of competitiveness: study confirms the efficiencies of Combined Transport	2
Associations call for CTD amendment	3
Czechia: trailer by rail record broken.....	3
TU Berlin Report on trailer transport by rail...3	
Intermodal Digitalisation WG launched	3
New EU Waste Transport Directive in 2026...3	
Data interoperability project EDICT over	3
eFTI Regulation to boost digitalisation.....	3
Innovative container transfer method launched in Denmark	3
North America intermodal in Q1.2025	3
Personnel News.....	4
Members' News.....	4
Key Dates & Events.....	4

UIRR Quarterly CT Performance Gauge



Business outlook for the 12 months between 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026



Data Sharing webinar

20 May 2025 – online >> [Register](#)



Transport Logistic Munich Visit UIRR on Stand 300 Hall B6

CT4EU event
4 June at 10:30



The main railway axis connecting France and Italy, Frejus, is restored

March 2025

The Frejus railway line, crippled by a major landslide in the Maurienne Valley in late August 2023, was restored to working order by the end of March. 19 months of works were needed to remove the rubble and to reinforce the mountainside to prevent any similar occurrence in the future.

Links:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7312473798568493056>

Open letter for a stronger EU budget for transport infrastructure

February 2025

45 signatories joined to demand that the European Union's next 7-year Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) contain adequate forms and quantity of infrastructure funding to ensure progress on the emergence of the Single European Railway Area and the harmonised technical parameters enshrined in the TEN-T Guidelines Regulation.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2025/mediacentre/3078-open-letter-a-competitive-and-resilient-europe-requires-a-stronger-eu-transport-budget.html>

Netherland's rail freight policy plan criticised for ambiguity

January 2025

The Ministry of Transport's policy plan that was published with a 4-year(!) delay has disappointed the rail freight sector, which was echoed by the Logistieke Alliantie of 16 major ports and airports as well as the infrastructure manager ProRail.

Link:

<https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3091-dutch-rail-freight-policy-plan-makes-industry-sound-the-alarm.html>

Sweden is warned for inadequate rail infrastructure investment outlays

January 2025

The government's proposed law titled 'The Road to a Reliable Transport Infrastructure' was criticised by several associations and industry actors as the foreseen funding under the proposal will deliver only fraction of the outstanding maintenance works needed on the network, which absorbed a 65% growth in performance in the last decades.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3077-sweden-investment-in-infrastructure-not-sufficient.html>

European Associations speak up on Rail Infrastructure Capacity Regulation

January 2025

Twelve European associations penned an open letter to articulate the needs of rail freight towards the trilogue negotiators of the new Railway Infrastructure Capacity Management Regulation of the European Union. More and better-quality train paths are needed for freight trains during both timetabling and when circumventing works.

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>

Rail freight loses market share on Transalpine relations in 2024

March 2025

Construction-related restrictions, mainly in Germany, have dealt a blow to Transalpine rail freight reducing its market share from 72% to 70,3%, while the overall transported volume has increased resulting in a 4,8% growth of truck transport.

Link:

<https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3120-2025-05-13-10-06-47.html>

Heavy goods vehicles behind Europe's chronic motorway congestions

March 2025

Motorway accidents, often caused by trucks, road maintenance works required by increased heavy truck circulation and simply the unbearable traffic density exacerbated by trucks have been found to be responsible for the increased volume of road congestion along Europe's motorways – causing a loss of over 1% of EU GDP.

Link:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7305618597152800768>

EU Driver License Directive amendment: a missed opportunity

March 2025

The recent amendment of the EU Driver's License Directive missed the opportunity to boost road safety by creating a new license category for European Modular Systems trucks of 25m or 32m in length and 60-70-tonnes in gross weight.

Link:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7310281864324300801>

Military Mobility should use the experience of Combined Transport

April 2025

Military mobility should make use of the vast experience of Combined Transport operators and transshipment terminals with shipping full trucks and containers by rail and waterway means.

Link:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7317942571203239938>

Pillar of competitiveness: study on the efficiencies of Combined Transport

January 2025

5 efficiencies of Combined Transport empower it to boost the competitiveness and resilience of Europe's economy under the Clean Industrial Deal: energy-, labour- and infrastructure efficiency, as well as accident-, congestion- and pollution prevention.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/leaflet-and-studies/2025/mediacentre/3037-study-the-efficiencies-of-combined-transport-.html>

Associations team up to call for Combined Transport Directive amendment

April 2025

11 signatories teamed up to call on the Council of the European Union to advance its first reading consideration of the Combined Transport Directive, while requesting that the European Parliament launch its first reading of the proposal that was unveiled by the European Commission in November 2023.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2025/mediacentre/3089-joint-statement-on-combined-transport.html>

Transport of trailers by rail: records broken in the Czech Republic

March 2025

The transport of trailers and the entire segment of unaccompanied Combined Transport achieved a record performance in 2023, amid a general decline in the overall performance of rail freight in the landlocked EU Member State.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3124-rail-transport-of-road-semi-trailers-in-the-czech-republic-breaks-records.html>

TU Berlin reports on the safety of trailer transport by rail

April 2025

The report examines the current safety standards for semi-trailers carried in pocket wagons, the implications of proposed changes to TSI Wagon regulations, and the specific operational conditions introduced by the Danish national safety authority on the Great Belt Bridge.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/leaflet-and-studies/mediacentre/3088-safety-assessment-of-pocket-wagons-.html>

European associations launch joint intermodal digitalisation working group

April 2025

Digital data standards in intermodal transport will be the focus subject of the new Intermodal Digitalisation Working Group announced by three associations: ERFA (rail freight), ECTA (chemical transport) and UIRR (Combined Transport).

Link: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7317566065910120449>

New EU Regulation on Waste Transport to come into force in 2026

March 2025

New Waste Transport Regulation 2024/1157 to make Waste Transport by intermodal means easier and more efficient, will enter into force in May 2026. UIRR's Dangerous Goods Interest Group actively assists members in preparing for the new regime.

Link: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7303119620268261376>

Data interoperability in Combined Transport gets boost through EDICT

February 2025

Terminal integration into the digital data exchange ecosystem of rail freight, quality management tools to help monitor the progress of intermodal freight trains and to understand the causes of irregularities, as well as the introduction of sector-led digitalisation initiatives were handled by the EU-funded EDICT Project, which concluded its mission during the first quarter of 2025.

Link: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7295124109628223489>

eFTI Regulation to substantially boost digitalisation by 2027

February 2025

Administrative cost savings of €1 billion for the European logistics sector, enhanced logistics planning capabilities due to instant data sharing and easy access to data will be delivered to economic actors involved in intermodal transport chains by the eFTI Regulation upon its planned entry into force in July 2027. The eFTI4EU and eFTI4ALL projects, funded by the EU, are actively catalysing the implementation process.

Links: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7301267439579717632> and https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-themes/logistics-and-multimodal-transport/efti-regulation_en

Denmark: innovative container transfer system introduced

March 2025

Crane-free container handling solution facilitates access to intermodal rail freight in Denmark. The new Container Transfer System (CTS) enables the seamless transfer of ISO containers between rail and truck, directly from the truck to the wagon.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3125-denmark-innovative-container-transfer-system-revolutionises-rail-freight-transport.html>

North America: Q1.2025 intermodal freight grows 6,3% year-on-year

April 2025

Intermodal rail freight in North America increased by 6,3% during the first quarter of 2025 compared to a year earlier. Continuation of the positive trend in the second quarter is less certain in view of the substantial tariffs unveiled in April by the US government, which undermined intercontinental trade.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/3127-north-america-q12025-intermodal-freight-grows-63-year-on-year.html>

Personnel News

BOHEMIAKOMBI

January 2025



New CEO at Bohemiakombi: David Vrtiška succeeds to Vladimír Fišer, who has retired. With over 20 years of experience in rail freight and intermodal logistics, D. Vrtiška brings deep industry expertise from his previous roles as Head of the Intermodal Department at ČD Cargo and also held senior sales roles at Rail Cargo Group, Express Slovakia, and Bohemiakombi.



EAST WEST IL

April 2024



New CEO at East-West Intermodal Logistics Plc.: After serving as Deputy CFO at East-West Intermodal Logistics Service Zrt., the operator of the East-West Gate terminal in Fényeslitke, Roman Vinar was appointed CEO following the departure of János Tálosi. R. Vinar is an experienced finance and logistics professional with over 15 years in economic and management roles. With a background spanning public road and intermodal logistics, he brings strategic leadership and industry insight to the role.

NOVATRANS GREENMODAL

August 2024



New Director General Combined Transport at Novatrans – Greenmodal: Tristan Ziegler is a rail logistics expert with 15 years of leadership experience in European freight transport. He previously served as Chairman of SIBELIT and Country manager France at Lineas and has a proven track record in streamlining rail operations and driving innovation in freight transport.

Members' & Partner's News

January 2025

RAIL CARGO GROUP

CFL INTERMODAL

NAVILAND CARGO

SAMSKIP

GATX RAIL EUROPE

LOHR GROUP

EQUIMODAL

EAST WEST IL/WASCOSA

[EcoVadis Gold status for the fourth time](#)

[Electrification: Introduction of MOL electric tractors \(model: YME 225\) to replace the current thermal tractors](#)

[Lyon Vénissieux-Saint-Priest combined transport platform is increasing its capacity](#)

[Samskip Italy reintroduces flat rack services](#)

[EcoVadis gold certification](#)

[New Modalohr terminal](#)

[Equimodal receives the RSA+ Award for Corporate Social Responsibility](#)

[EWG is the first in Europe to operate Wascosa's innovative Green Tank Car® and Green Freight Car® wagons](#)

February 2025

CARGOBEAMER

HUPAC

MERCITALIA Intermodal

CONTARGO

SCHMITZ CARGOBULL

[CargoBeamer raises up to €65M – growth capital secured within 12 months increases to €205M](#)

[Near 1 mln shippings in 2024, 2025: opening of 2 new terminals in Piacenza and Barcelona, 2026: opening of the terminal in Milan Smistamento](#)

[Digitalisation of the wagons](#)

[Contargo opens Germany's largest private charging infrastructure for e-trucks](#)

[Received seal of approval for sustainable trailer telematics](#)

March 2025

DUSS

METRANS

GYSEV CARGO

[Digitalisation DUSS-Terminal Köln-Eifelort](#)

[41st Vectron locomotive](#)

[first train from Halkali](#)

Key Dates & Events

15 May Hamburg (DE)	12. BSL-mobilité Kunden Forum
15 May, Bucharest (RO)	Romanian Freight Forwarder's Day
15-16 May, Lugano (CH)	Hupac Intermodal Forum
20-22 May, Barcelona (ES)	Mediterranean Ports and Logistics
21 May, Brussels (BE)	UIRR General Assembly
2-5 June, Munich (DE)	Transport Logistic Expo
11-13 June (PL)	Intermodal Poland Conference
17-19 June, Birmingham (UK)	Multimodal
18-20 June, Barcelona (ES)	SIL
2 June, Brussels (BE)	20 Years of European Coordinators



UIRR SC

31 rue Montoyer
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 548 78 90
E-mail: news@uirr.com
Internet: www.uirr.com
Editor: Ákos Érsek, UIRR