



## Weak performance continues

Combined Transport in Europe shrunk by 14,41% between April and June of 2023 compared to the same period a year earlier. The decline is comparable to the 14,67% historic decline suffered during the second quarter of 2020 which saw the worst COVID lockdowns. Q2.2023 was the third consecutive quarter of negative growth for European Combined Transport.

The UIRR Sentiment Index reflects business sentiment for the coming 12 months and it remains 'negative'. The poor outlook for European Combined Transport is attributable to the European economy, which is experiencing difficult times characterised by high inflation, sluggish consumer confidence, the end of abundant and cheap energy and multiple impacts on transcontinental trade, while at the same time cost competitiveness is deteriorating, with increasing track access charges and high traction electricity prices competing with unchanged road tolls and declining diesel fuel prices.

The economic transition is predicted to last at least until the end of 2024, therefore measures will have to be taken to support the high fixed cost Combined Transport sector during this period. A wide range of options are already available to Member State governments to support electric rail freight through actions such as reduced track access charges or traction electricity price caps. The timely implementation of European law adopted during the past years such as the Mobility Package or the Eurovignette Directive amendment could also be helpful.

The 2022 business year of the Combined Transport sector was formally assessed during the annual General Assembly of UIRR on 31 May. The performance was mixed, as the number of consignments transported declined by a relatively minor 0,3%, whereas – due to the collapse of intercontinental Combined Transport between Asia and Europe – the tonne-kilometre output declined by 11,7%. Quarterly performance shifted down by 7% in the traditionally strong fourth quarter of 2022, foretelling the severe downturn experienced during the first half of 2023.

After several delays, the European Commission unveiled the Greening Freight Package of legislative proposals. The package consists of the new Rail Infrastructure Capacity Management and the new CountEmissionEU regulations, as well as the amendments of the Weights and Dimensions and the Combined Transport directives. Regrettably, the tabling of the Combined Transport Directive amendment proposal has been delayed to September. The historic Greening Freight Package provides a golden opportunity to enact a concentrated revision of the regulatory framework of European freight transportation that promises a meaningful impact.

The UIRR Combined Transport membership grew to 51 with new terminal member Liège Logistics Intermodal (LLI), which operates trimodal intermodal terminals in eastern Belgium. It is with great pleasure that we announce that together with the addition of new technology partner Evolit and 5 new MoU peers from Member States, FERMERCI, HUNGRAIL, RAILGOOD, Ukrainian Logistics Alliance and TTLA, by July 2023 the UIRR network became 100 strong.

Ralf-Charley Schultze – President



**4<sup>th</sup> European  
Intermodal Summit**  
- Brussels, Belgium

28 November 2023



**RAILLIVE!**

**Conference and exhibition  
Rail Freight Day**  
- Madrid, Spain

29 November - 1 December 2023



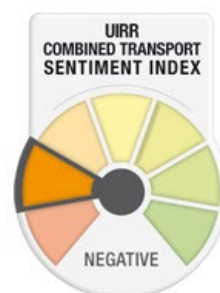
### CONTENTS

Rhine left bank use in French hands.....	2
Rail freight market share to double in France by 2030.....	2
Germany's traction electricity price brake is praised by the freight sector.....	2
Dutch track access charges to increase .....	2
Austria targets 40% rail freight share.....	2
West Balkans close to TEN-T integration .....	2
Digital Automatic Couplers (DAC) should work for intermodal rail.....	2
Road toll reform in Germany .....	2
Belgium increases road tolls for trucks.....	2
Greening Freight Package unveiled by European Commission .....	3
Closing of the 2022 business year of European Combined Transport.....	3
ZEVs ideal for CT road legs.....	3
EDICT Project and QMS for intermodal rail...3	3
PLANET Project: improvements needed for intercontinental intermodal rail.....	3
Finland's first inland CT terminal opens.....	3
Switzerland supports new terminal in the Milan area .....	3
UIRR and CT4EU at the Transport Logistics 2023 Expo in Munich .....	3
Personnel News.....	4
Members' News.....	4
Key Dates & Events.....	4

### UIRR Quarterly CT Performance Gauge



### Business outlook for the 12 months between 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024



## Performance of Rail Freight

### Rhine left bank use during RALP RFC works in French hands

April 2023

Upgrading of the Wörth-Strasbourg border crossing railway line would be needed for freight trains to use the lines on the left bank of the Rhine in France. France must agree to the upgrades.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2566-decision-for-rhine-alpine-alternative-on-rhine-left-bank-is-now-up-to-france.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2566-decision-for-rhine-alpine-alternative-on-rhine-left-bank-is-now-up-to-france.html)

### France to double rail freight market share until 2030

June 2023

France's Minister of Transport, Clément Beaune, declared the objective of doubling the market share of rail freight in the country by 2030.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2613-france-multiplier-par-deux-le-recours-au-fret-ferroviaire-dici-2030.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2613-france-multiplier-par-deux-le-recours-au-fret-ferroviaire-dici-2030.html)

### Germany's traction electricity price brake praised by the sector

May 2023

Freight railways praise the further development of the traction electricity price brake introduced by the German government recently. Other EU Member States should follow.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2592-2023-06-14-16-13-40.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2592-2023-06-14-16-13-40.html)

### Dutch track access charge increase by more than 10% in 2024

May 2023

The Dutch rail infrastructure manager, ProRail, announced the 10,5% increase of track access charges to freight trains in 2024. This follows a price increase of 12% in 2023, which undermines rail freight's competitiveness.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2583-track-access-charges-in-the-netherlands-rise-again-in-2024.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2583-track-access-charges-in-the-netherlands-rise-again-in-2024.html)

### Austria targets 40% market share for rail freight

April 2023

Austria's Freight Transport Masterplan foresees to achieve a 40% market share for rail freight in the Alps country. The increase will largely occur as a consequence of modal shift from trucks to trains.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2571-2023-05-10-15-37-35.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2571-2023-05-10-15-37-35.html)

### West Balkans close to TEN-T integration

June 2023

West Balkan EU member candidates Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia have taken decisive steps recently to connect their transport networks with the TEN-T network.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2608-western-balkans-gradually-getting-closer-to-ten-t-integration.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2608-western-balkans-gradually-getting-closer-to-ten-t-integration.html)

### Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC) to work for Combined Transport

July 2023

UIRR together with 8 of its peers signed the Sector Statement on DAC. The European industry association for Combined Transport emphasised that DAC must work both from a technology and a financial perspective for intermodal rail. ERA will soon launch a working group to ensure that the DAC standard to be implemented satisfies these requirements.

[Links: https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2600-press-release-dac-sector-statement.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2600-press-release-dac-sector-statement.html) and <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2599-dac-sector-statement.html>

## Fair, Mode-neutral Regulatory Framework

### Road toll reform in Germany to close gap to level playing field

April 2023

Germany is the first Member State that is to introduce a road tolling reform to implement the Eurovignette Directive amendment (EU/2022/362).

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2582-2023-06-14-15-48-40.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2582-2023-06-14-15-48-40.html)

### Road toll increase in Belgium

April 2023

The road toll increase that took effect from 1 July in Belgium is not equivalent to the German reform, but it is a simple price correction. Accordingly a Euro 6 diesel truck will be charged 18 cents/vkm.

[Link: https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2581-road-tolls-set-to-increase-in-belgium-again.html](https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2581-road-tolls-set-to-increase-in-belgium-again.html)

## EU Commission unveils long awaited Greening Freight Package

July 2023

3 of the 4 components of the Greening Freight Package have been adopted by the College of EU Commissioners on 11 July. To the dismay of UIRR, the proposed amendment of the Combined Transport Directive will be delayed to September.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2601-press-release-greening-freight-package-for-combined-transport.html>

*Enhancement of Intermodal Transport*

## Closing of the Combined Transport sector's 2022 business year

May 2023

Combined Transport in Europe declined by 0,3% in 2022 compared to a year earlier when measured in number of consignments transported.

Links: <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2576-press-release-closing-of-combined-transport-2022-business-year.html>

## Zero-emission vehicles ideal for CT road legs

May 2023

The European Clean Trucking Alliance and UIRR published a joint paper to praise the use of zero-emission trucks for Combined Transport road-legs.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2594-ecta-uirr-joint-position-paper-on-the-use-of-zero-emission-trucks-in-ct.html>

## EDICT Project and QMS for intermodal rail presented

May 2023

The EDICT project and the collaborative Quality Management System (cQMS) that is being developed within it for intermodal rail has been presented at the Transport Logistic Expo 2023.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2572-press-release-edict-project-successfully-presented-munich-transport-logistic-fair-2023.html>

## PLANET: improvements needed for intercontinental intermodal rail

May 2023

The Intercontinental Platform for intermodal rail, formed under the PLANET project by UIRR, has delivered its recommendations on the improvements needed to intercontinental Combined Transport.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/media-centre/press-releases-and-position-papers/2023/mediacentre/2555-press-release-improvements-needed-for-intercontinental-ct.html>

## Swiss government supports new terminal in Milan area

April 2023

The Swiss government supports the construction of a large intermodal transshipment terminal to the east of Milan.

Link: <https://www.uirr.com/en/news/mediacentre/2569-railways-switzerland-supports-the-construction-of-a-large-transshipment-terminal-near-milan.html>

## UIRR at Transport Logistic 2023 - Munich

May 2023

UIRR and IBS were present together for the fourth time on an enlarged stand at the Transport Logistics 2023 Expo in Munich.





## Personnel News

**RAIL CARGO GROUP**  
June 2023



**Bernhard Ebner**, Member of the Rail Cargo Group Management Board as well as Head of Business Unit Intermodal and member of the Board of Directors of UIRR, has departed RCG and resigned from his position in the Board of Directors of UIRR.

**Christoph Grasl**, who recently joined the Executive Board of the Rail Cargo Group, will temporarily replace **Bernhard Ebner**.

## Members' News

<b>AMBROGIO INTERMODAL</b> June 2023	Domegliara terminal opening Click: <a href="https://ambrogiointermodal.com/en/news/domegliara-terminal-officially-opened/">https://ambrogiointermodal.com/en/news/domegliara-terminal-officially-opened/</a>
<b>DUISPORT</b> July 2023	Construction of the new Duisburg Gateway Terminal under way with PSA International's support Click: <a href="https://www.duisport.de/pressemeldungen/?lang=en">https://www.duisport.de/pressemeldungen/?lang=en</a>
<b>HUPAC</b> May 2023	Hupac raises its voice against the threat of reverse modal shift Click: <a href="https://www.hupac.com/EN/Moving-together-to-stop-reverse-modal-shift-af278100">https://www.hupac.com/EN/Moving-together-to-stop-reverse-modal-shift-af278100</a>
<b>INTERPORTO BOLOGNA</b> July 2023	Two new electric gantry cranes will power the new 750m-module Click: <a href="https://www.interporto.it/in-arrivo-le-gru-a-portale-all-interporto-di-bologna-aq43">https://www.interporto.it/in-arrivo-le-gru-a-portale-all-interporto-di-bologna-aq43</a>
<b>KOMBIVERKEHR</b> June 2023	2022 year closing: higher volumes despite difficult conditions Click: <a href="https://www.kombiverkehr.de/en/service/customers/news/Kombiverkehr_KG_posts_higher_volumes_despite_difficult_conditions_and_renews_demand_for_climate_bonus_for_intermodal_forwarders">https://www.kombiverkehr.de/en/service/customers/news/Kombiverkehr_KG_posts_higher_volumes_despite_difficult_conditions_and_renews_demand_for_climate_bonus_for_intermodal_forwarders</a>
<b>KTL TERMINAL</b> June 2023	Launch of photovoltaic system to power the terminal Click: <a href="https://kti-lu.de/2023/05/22/noch-was-neues/">https://kti-lu.de/2023/05/22/noch-was-neues/</a>
<b>METRANS</b> June 2023	Some surcharges are alleviated while others have to remain Click: <a href="https://metrans.eu/traction-energy-surcharge-fuel-surcharge-detour-surcharge/">https://metrans.eu/traction-energy-surcharge-fuel-surcharge-detour-surcharge/</a>
<b>PCC INTERMODAL</b> June 2023	First gantry crane installed at Brzeg Dolny terminal Click: <a href="https://www.pccintermodal.pl/en/first-gantry-crane-in-brzed-dolny/">https://www.pccintermodal.pl/en/first-gantry-crane-in-brzed-dolny/</a>
<b>RALPIN</b> May 2023	Positive development and extension for Rolling Highway services until 2028 Click: <a href="https://www.ralpin.ch/sites/default/files/psimages/2023%2005%2023%20RALpin%20Medienmitteilung%20Jahresergebnis%202022%20und%20Weiterfu%CC%88hrung%20ab%202024_de.pdf">https://www.ralpin.ch/sites/default/files/psimages/2023%2005%2023%20RALpin%20Medienmitteilung%20Jahresergebnis%202022%20und%20Weiterfu%CC%88hrung%20ab%202024_de.pdf</a>
<b>SAMSKIP</b> July 2023	EU ETS to become applicable from 1 January 2024 Click: <a href="https://www.samskip.com/news/customer-update-eu-emissions-trading-system-ets-update/">https://www.samskip.com/news/customer-update-eu-emissions-trading-system-ets-update/</a>
<b>TERMINALI ITALIA</b> June 2023	New terminal in Bagnolo to serve the Port of La Spezia Click: <a href="https://www.terminalitalia.it/content/terminali_italia/it/news-e-media/news/2023/6/16/terminali-italia--nuovo-terminal-a-bagnolo-e-via-libera-al-corri.html">https://www.terminalitalia.it/content/terminali_italia/it/news-e-media/news/2023/6/16/terminali-italia--nuovo-terminal-a-bagnolo-e-via-libera-al-corri.html</a>

## Key Dates & Events

29-30 August, Gothenburg	UIRR Nordic Seminar 2023
6-7 September, Bremen	RailFreight Connects Conference
20-21 September, Baku	Black and Caspian Freight Forum
26-27 September, Magdeburg	BME-VDV 4 <sup>th</sup> International Intermodal Conference 2023
30 September, Athens	EESYM International Conference on Disruptions in Freight Transport
11 October, Brussels	Rail Forum Europe CountEmissionEU event
26 October, Paris	La Journée du Transport Combiné
6-10 November, Brussels	CT4EU Exhibition in the European Parliament
9 November, Berlin	SGKV Terminaltag Conference 2023
28 November, Brussels	European Intermodal Summit 2023
29-30 November, Madrid	Rail Live! Conference and Exhibition



**UIRR**  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
FOR ROAD-RAIL  
COMBINED TRANSPORT

**UIRR sc**  
Address: 31 rue Montoyer  
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 548 78 90  
E-mail: [news@uirr.com](mailto:news@uirr.com)  
Internet: [www.uirr.com](http://www.uirr.com)  
Editor: Ákos Érsek, UIRR