



The Statutory General Assembly (SGA) of the International Union of Combined Road-Rail Transport Companies (UIRR) took place on June 25 2007 in Brussels. The annual accounts in balance, the composition of its organs as well as the development of traffic were on the agenda, whereas quality of rail service was the central issue of the discussions during the Interunit Assembly held the day after.

#### **Traffic evolution**

In 2006, UIRR companies' total traffic (number of consignments) registered an increase of 15%, which is the best result ever registered for several years. International unaccompanied CT rose by 19% compared with 2005, with a pronounced progression in transalpine traffic. The consignments of the new UIRR member Polzug, which were also taken into account, contributed to this increase. International accompanied CT (Rolling Motorway) has initiated a certain recovery, with a progression of 4% of the consignments, in particular thanks to the growth in the consignments on all the relations concerning Austria. This positive result is due to several reasons: a positive economic climate, the awareness of the professionals that road-rail CT enables to avoid the throes of road congestion, as well as the implementation of favourable measures such as a stricter control of speed and laden weights of the road vehicles in Germany and France in particular, the putting into service of the digital tachographs and the adoption of the Regulation EC nr. 561/2006 which sets the driving and resting hours.

#### **Elaboration of a common strategy for CT**

This SGA was characterised by the homogeneity of the interests of the UIRR family members. This was particularly conveyed in the facts by the decision to re-examine the UIRR strategy in the face of a fast expanding market in order to improve CT's efficiency and to enable its sustainable development in Europe.

#### **Mr. Kovács's speech**

During the gala dinner following the SGA, the European Commissioner in charge of Taxation and Customs Union Mr. László Kovács, underlined the importance of adopting, on the short term, a modernised Community Customs Code enabling a faster crossing of the frontiers as well as the necessity to concentrate security measures on the consignments which have a higher level of risk.

In his welcome address, after having explained the state of the traffic and the trends, Mr. Eugenio Muzio, Chairman of the Board of Directors, reminded the conditions which are required for a sustainable development of CT.

Moreover, he underlined the total support of the UIRR to more extended safety/security rules which show a reasonable relationship with the risks, knowing that these are already largely mastered in CT. These

speeches are available on the new version of the web site [www.uirr.com](http://www.uirr.com).

#### **UIRR 2006 Report**

On the occasion of its SGA, the UIRR published its 2006 annual Report which theme is the revival of road-rail CT under its various aspects: on the one hand, revival by the Office in Brussels, within the framework of its frequent contacts with institutional decision makers and through projects, and on the other hand, operational revival in particular thanks to a constant improvement of the operators' organisation enabling the creation of new commercial opportunities in an enlarged Europe. This annual Report is available in French, English and German and a printed version can be obtained by enquiring at the Office in Brussels or member companies. A brochure with the detailed statistics of the UIRR for the year 2006 has also been published. These two documents can be downloaded on the web site [www.uirr.com](http://www.uirr.com).

#### **UIRR management**

Due to a considerable workload resulting from other commitments, Mr. Bernhard Kunz, Director General of Hupac, put his mandate as a member of the UIRR Board at the SGA's disposal. According to the Statutes, his replacement will be considered on the next General Assembly.

On the occasion of the SGA, the two years extension of Mr. Rudy Colle's contract was confirmed. He will keep on fulfilling the function of Director General of the UIRR together with Mr. Martin Burkhardt and will also be in charge of the Interunit secretariat for the two years to come.

#### **Interunit**

The day after the internal meetings of the UIRR, the association grouping together the railway undertakings (RU) members of the GTC/UIC and the UIRR operators - Interunit - also held its General Assembly. The company RTC attended it for the first time further to the extension of the membership which was decided in 2006. The discussions essentially focused on the quality of the railway services and various aspects regarding the use of wagons. Faced with the disappointing results of the quality charter signed with the RUs in 2005, it was decided to forge ahead and to create a work group which will aim at working out a quality label. An external organ will be commissioned in order to check the achievements in this field. Moreover, Mr. Peetermans was elected chairman of Interunit for two years as a railway representative. During this period of time, the UIRR representatives within the Interunit Liaison Committee will be Mr. Muzio, Mr. Berenyi, Mr. Breuhahn, Mr. Petitmengin and Mr. Ungersbäck.