

Press release

Brussels, 10 December 2018

Council abandoning European Combined Transport

The Council negotiating position (general approach) regarding the amendment of the Combined Transport Directive, adopted on Monday 3 December, would put in danger the currently existing harmonized common market for Combined Transport (CT).

Few weeks after the Graz Declaration of 7 November, which promotes a “Green Deal for Europe”, one week after the European Commission announced its proposal to turn Europe climate neutral by 2050 and right at the beginning of the COP24 UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice, the Council position effectively disintegrates the European regulatory framework of Combined Transport.

The Combined Transport Directive has always been an instrumental enabler of CT operations. The Directive in its current form may be imperfect, but it describes uniform rules for CT within the EU Common Market. As 85% of CT trains cross at least one internal border of the EU, it is exceptionally important that the same rules apply on both sides of all internal borders within the European Union. The proposed changes to the CT Directive, if implemented, would undermine existing logistics chains.

Furthermore, shippers, logistics service providers, CT operators, terminal managers, railway undertakings and wagon keepers have extensively invested into Combined Transport solutions. The return on these investments would be highly in danger with such a legislation.

CER, ERFA, FEPORT, UIP and UIRR therefore express their deep concerns on how CT will remain competitive in a marketplace where homogeneous EU-wide rules are replaced by Member State choices while being burdened by extensive new enforcement obligations. The associations issuing this statement call on the Romanian Presidency to ensure wins for Combined Transport in the impending dialogue process and to align more closely with the ambition of the European Parliament position.

For more information:	
Eva Böckle CER Head of Communications E: eva.boeckle@cer.be T: +32 (0)2 213 08 90 M: +32 (0) 473 32 20 94	The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER) brings together more than 70 railway undertakings, their national associations as well as infrastructure managers and vehicle leasing companies. The membership is made up of long-established bodies, new entrants and both private and public enterprises, representing 73% of the rail network length, 83% of the rail freight business and about 95% of rail passenger operations in EU, EFTA and EU accession countries. CER represents the interests of its members towards EU policy makers and transport stakeholders, advocating rail as the backbone of a competitive and sustainable transport system in Europe. For more information, visit www.cer.be or follow @CER_railways on Twitter.
Julia Lamb ERFA Secretary General E: julia.lamb@erfarail.eu T: +32 4 85 25 99 88	ERFA represents 30 private and independent railway companies from across Europe. ERFA's aim is to foster an attractive business environment for rail freight services in Europe. All members fully commit to the creation of a competitive, non-discriminatory and innovative Single European Railway Area. For more information, visit www.erfarail.eu .
Conor Feighan FEPORT Policy Advisor E: conor.feighan@feport.eu T: +32 02 736 75 52	Founded in 1993, FEPORT represents the interests of large variety of terminal operators and stevedoring companies performing operations and carrying out activities over 400 terminals in the seaports of the European Union. FEPORT speaks on behalf more than 1200 companies. Our aim is to promote the interests of our members (i.e. national associations and global multinational companies) and to maintain constant dialogue with all EU institutional and non-institutional stakeholders".

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<p>Julia Kremer UIP Manager of European Policies and Public Affairs E: julia.kremer@uiprail.org T: +32 2 672 8847</p>	<p>Founded in 1950, the UIP – International Union of Wagon Keepers, domiciled in Brussels, is the umbrella association of national associations from fourteen European countries, thus representing more than 250 independent wagon keepers with approximately 200.000 freight wagons, performing 50 % of the rail freight tonne-kilometres throughout Europe. UIP represents the members' concerns at international level. By means of research, lobbying and focused cooperation with all stakeholders and organisations interested in rail freight transportation, the UIP wants to secure in the mid and long term the future of rail freight transport. For more information, visit www.uiprail.org.</p>
<p>Ákos Érsek UIRR Chief Policy Advisor E: aersek@uirr.com T: +32 2 548 78 91</p>	<p>Founded in 1970, the International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport (UIRR) represents the interests of European road-rail Combined Transport Operators and Transshipment 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). For more information, visit www.uirr.com.</p>