

Rail freight: crucial for Europe's competitiveness and energy security



The Voice of European Railways

Rail freight is particularly well placed to reduce Europe's dependence on imported fuels, due to its high energy efficiency and major reliance on electric energy. Rail freight can support Europe's competitiveness if the right framework conditions are set in place.

CER represents...



Source: CER statistics

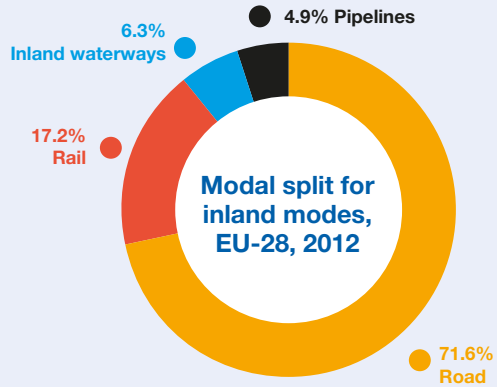
Tonnes of cargo transported by rail

1709.2 mill.

tonnes of cargo were transported by rail in 2011, in EU-28. Had this freight been transported by road, it would have required over 100 million truck journeys.

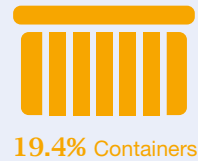
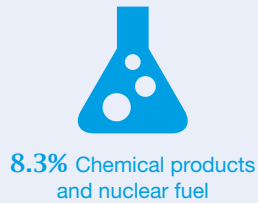
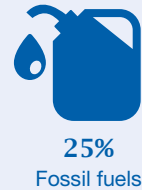
Modal share

Rail freight is slowly recovering after the 2009 economic crisis, but there is still a strong imbalance between rail and road.



Source: Eurostat, EU Transport in figures: statistical pocket book 2014

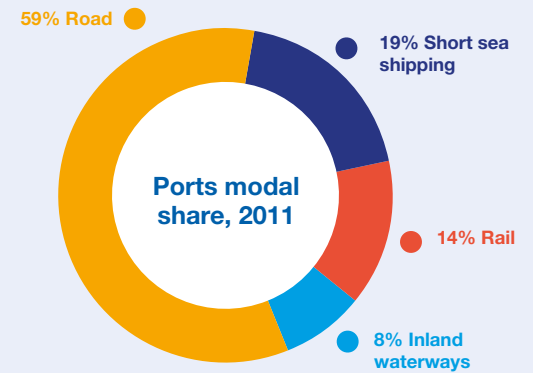
Main customers of rail freight



Source: Eurostat, 2014

Ports & rail

The modal split of inland transport of containers is still strongly in favour of road freight, in spite of individual ports' efforts.



Source: EIA, Intermodal Yearbook 2011-2012
Averages based on data from the ports of Antwerp, Barcelona, Hamburg, Rijeka and Amsterdam

CER policy recommendations for rail freight



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Railways

1

Remove technical and administrative bottlenecks

- Achieve a Single European Railway Area through rail infrastructure investments while strictly applying **the harmonisation of technical requirements** (TSIs) across Europe
- Establishing a single EU authority for safety certifications, vehicle and ERTMS authorisations
- Guarantee **legal and regulatory stability** (10 years minimum)
- Ensure that legal requirements implying a need for retrofitting or accelerated fleet turnover (noise abatement, ERTMS, etc.) are **revenue neutral** for both operators and infrastructure managers
- Ensure a smooth transition to **e-customs**

2

Launch a Master Plan for rail freight

- Ensure that Member States provide **sufficient and reliable long-term funding** to improvements of rail infrastructure quality and capacity to enable the provision of reliable and sustainable services by rail freight operators
- Promote a better integration of rail in the logistic chain by connecting the rail network to industrial sites, warehousing facilities and urban distribution nodes
- Support **process innovation** from the sector and **smart investments**, in particular for better use of existing infrastructure capacity and optimisation of resources and productivity gains

3

Develop a new intermodal strategy for freight transport

- Put transport at the **heart of EU energy and climate policy**
- Ensure that all modes are treated equally and able to compete on a **level-playing field**, including when it comes to infrastructure user charging and internalisation of external costs
- Enhance **rail connections to seaports and hinterland terminals**
- Limit changes in **weights and dimensions** of road vehicles and trailers which would hinder combined transport