

## 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 triologue process and to align more closely with the ambition of the European Parliament position.

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For more information:	
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Julia Lamb ERFA Secretary General E: <a href="mailto:julia.lamb@erfarail.eu">julia.lamb@erfarail.eu</a> T: +32 4 85 25 99 88	<b>ERFA</b> represents 30 <b>private and independent railway companies</b> 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 <a href="http://www.erfarail.eu">www.erfarail.eu</a> .
Conor Feighan FEPORT Policy Advisor E: <a href="mailto:conor.feighan@feport.eu">conor.feighan@feport.eu</a> T: +32 02 736 75 52	Founded in 1993, <b>FEPORT</b> 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".

## Press release

Brussels, 7 December 2018

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<p>Ákos Érsek UIRR Chief Policy Advisor E: <a href="mailto:aersek@uirr.com">aersek@uirr.com</a> T: +32 2 548 78 91</p>	<p>Founded in 1970, the <b>International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport (UIRR)</b> represents the interests of European road-rail Combined Transport Operators and Transhipment 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 <a href="http://www.uirr.com">www.uirr.com</a>.</p>