



UNION INTERNATIONALE DES CHEMINS DE FER
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Launch of UIC DIOMIS Study: “Developing infrastructure use and operating models for intermodal shift”.

Objectives: encourage cooperation between all stakeholders in combined transport, optimise capacity management at terminal level and improve practices in transport planning in order to increase the competitiveness of intermodal services.

(Paris, 15 February 2006). In its 2001 White Paper, the European Commission forecasts a 38% rise in the European domestic freight market (all transport modes included) over the next ten years. It predicts a rail freight market share of 15% for the year 2020 and therefore expects the rail mode to play a significant part in the modal shift needed to sustain the mobility, environment and competitiveness of the European economy.

This prediction prompted the UIC Combined Transport Group, in partnership with the UIRR, to commission a *study on the infrastructure capacity reserves of the European rail network*.

The conclusions of the *Capacity study*, published in May 2004, highlighted that in the current context of infrastructure saturation, in order to bring about the modal shift towards rail advocated by the EU in its White Paper, several measures need to be taken. These measures range from investments in rail and terminal infrastructure, and technical-operational improvements to fostering effective working procedures between all the stakeholders in combined rail-road transport.

The capacity study also showed that individual “best practices” to deal with limited resources or to provide a qualitative and more efficient service do exist, but that they are not sufficiently known about and anticipated by other stakeholders at European level.

With the **DIOMIS** study (*DIOMIS = Developing Infrastructure use and Operating Models for Intermodal Shift*), the partners wish to investigate how more efficient management, operating and working procedures may help towards:

- de-saturation of the rail network
- de-saturation of intermodal terminals
- modal shift in favour of rail.

DIOMIS consists of key areas of work with the following objectives:

- encourage new types of **cooperation** between all stakeholders in combined transport: terminal operators, combined transport operators, shippers, railway undertakings, infrastructure managers, national and supranational authorities,
- draw up and help implement optimal capacity management models at **terminal level** for optimum use of the available capacity,
- adapt and improve more effective operating practices in terms of **rail operations** in order to relieve a saturated network and respond to future market requirements,

- describe the benefits of an international approach towards transport planning, and lay down the basic principles for a common approach towards improving intermodal services.

The UIC DIOMIS study will be carried out by the same consortium of consultants that produced the Infrastructure Capacity Reserves report, Kessel+Partner and Kombiconsult. The UIC project team will be collaborating closely with experts from the European market: the UIRR (International Union of combined Road-Rail transport companies) and Europlatforms.

DIOMIS will last 24 months. Its initial meeting took place on 23 January 2006.

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