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Interview with Mr. Johann Feindert UIP President

Mr. Johann Feindert, UIP board member and CEO of GATX Rail Europe, was confirmed as new UIP President in April 2025. He dives into his ideas for UIP and the way he would like to see the rail industry develop, and also shares a bit about him as a person.

Do you already have ideas for UIP as new President?

Absolutely. I am honored to take on this role and lead the way in UIP's work. I want to focus on three things in particular:

- First, build a stronger and more powerful organization across Europe, increase resources in UIP and intensify cooperation with our members to be able to follow and influence all actual and upcoming topics on European and national levels.
- Second, with this more powerful organization strengthen our voice and visibility in shaping EU policies that impact wagon keepers and the rail freight business. I want us to become a stronger, more relevant voice at the table.
- Third, keep a close eye on opportunities to get EU support (not only financially) like we did for noise-retrofitting.



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Rail freight is key for more sustainable European logistics.

How can wagon keepers contribute to this?

We are already: Wagon keepers are already driving innovation—by optimizing railcar design, increasing transparency by providing telematics data to the customers, and lowering the carbon footprint. With a better rail offer and an overall better integration of rail into the logistics mix, we can provide what the customer is looking for: a reliable, efficient, green and smart service.

If we get this right, it is a win not just for European logistics but for our whole society.

Looking beyond the wagons, how can we drive progress in the world of rail?

We need to break down silos and amplify the sentiment that only by pulling on the same string can we make rail easier for the customer. I think for example of the huge improvement we could gain by doing away with national rules around Europe. Our focus should be on fostering relationships because it's a collective effort. Collaboration grows when we are all aligned not

just on where we're going, but when we agree on how to get there.

If you had a magic paint brush, how would you paint rail freight operations in 2030 ?

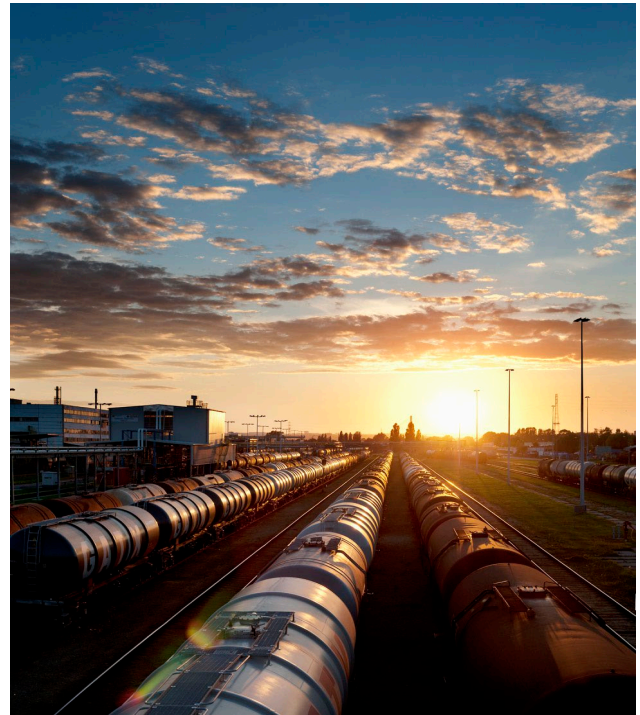


I'd paint a network where rail freight is an integral part of efficient multimodal solutions. Imagine railcars that self-report their condition, trains that cross borders without delay, and platforms that give real-time updates across the supply chain. Rail freight in 2030 should be more flexible, digital, faster and customizable than ever.

How do you recharge your batteries (hobby, activities) ?

I'm a firm believer that clear thinking needs clear surroundings. I enjoy being outdoors—cycling and walking helps me recharge and reset. Spending time with my family is also essential; they keep me grounded and remind me what really matters.

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About Johann Feindert's professional background:

He started his career as a technician at the start-up KVG Kesselwagen Vermietgesellschaft mbH in 1991 and has remained with the company to this day. In 2006, as COO, he was jointly responsible for the rebranding to GATX Rail Europe. He became the CEO of GATX Rail Europe Group in 2019 and knows the company and the industry inside and out. With over 34 years of experience in the industry, he can assess and understand all elements of the business. He represents GATX Rail Europe in several national and European railway associations.

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