



PRESS STATEMENT

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Swiss Court Pauses Unilateral Wagon Safety Measures, Paving Way for European Collaboration

UIP welcomes the fact that the Swiss Federal Administrative Court has ordered the provisional suspension of the Federal Office of Transport's (FOT) decree imposing unilateral wagon safety measures. The decision, issued on 24 November, reinforces the need for evidence-based safety measures that apply consistently across Europe, preventing further fragmentation of Europe's rail area. The FOT measures issued in September, and amended in October, are therefore not applicable for the duration of the proceedings or until a contrary decision is made.

UIP Secretary General Gilles Peterhans said the following: *"Safety is a shared responsibility. The court ruling underscores the need for a collaborative, fact-based approach to improving rail safety. We remain committed to working with the FOT, all European national safety authorities, and sector representatives through the Joint Network Secretariat (JNS). As the pan-European platform bringing together all key rail stakeholders, the JNS enables the approval of proportionate and harmonised measures that make rail freight ever safer across Europe—benefiting Switzerland as well."*

This court order comes ahead of the publication of the JNS's updated safety recommendations due by the end of this year. The JNS procedure, of which Switzerland is a party, was established by the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) and exists specifically to ensure that safety issues are addressed in a timely and consistent manner.

Switzerland has a seat at the JNS alongside EU national safety authorities and sector representatives. The sector representatives range from those responsible for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the rail system.

Bringing all these actors together is crucial to understanding and avoiding potential unintended consequences. The JNS enables a balanced approach that serves the long-term interest of society.

The court order is now an opportunity for all parties to come together, including Switzerland, and focus on finding a common European solution.

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About UIP

Founded in 1950, **UIP – International Union of Wagon Keepers**, with its seat in Brussels, is the umbrella association of national associations from 14 European countries, thus representing more than 250 freight wagon keepers and Entities in Charge of Maintenance (ECMs). As the voice for more than 255'000 rail freight wagons which perform 50 % of the rail freight tons-kilometers throughout Europe, the UIP represents half of the whole European wagon fleet and one of the most important resources for rail freight transportation in Europe.