



PRESS STATEMENT

16/02/2026, Brussels

Swiss FOT breaks with joint European decision and maintains unilateral national rules

UIP strongly regrets the Swiss Federal Office of Transport's (FOT) unilateral decision to act outside the conclusions of the Joint Network Secretariat.

In December 2025, the Joint Network Secretariat unanimously adopted harmonised European safety measures based on a detailed, evidence-based risk assessment. The recommendations are clear: Europe has a robust rail safety framework in place; the key challenge identified is the consistent and effective application of existing European safety measures. The agreed risk control measures do not justify the introduction of additional national requirements outside the common framework.

The conclusions were reached collectively by the European Union Agency for Railways and national safety authorities from across Europe, including more than a dozen competent authorities from major rail freight countries, bringing together a wide range of operational, technical and regulatory expertise.

The Swiss Federal Office of Transport (FOT) participated throughout the JNS process, contributing to discussions and technical assessments. No substantive objections were raised during the adoption process, and conclusions were adopted unanimously by all other national safety authorities. Several weeks later, in the absence of any new facts or evidence, the FOT set aside the outcome it had helped shape and maintained its unilateral national measures. This sequence of events highlights the difficulty of maintaining consistency when collective efforts are later overridden by unilateral national measures which creates legal and operational uncertainty across the rail system.

UIP and its members remain fully committed to working closely with the European Union Agency for Railways, national safety authorities and partners across the rail sector to support full and effective implementation of the JNS conclusions and recommendations, ensuring that safety and interoperability continue to advance together across the European rail network. UIP will not comment on ongoing judicial proceedings.

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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.