

## UIP Keepers' Summit 2026

### "More Action, Less Talking": Rail freight leaders demand reality check

**29 May 2026 KRAKOW** - *"If we acted as much as we talked, we could bring our trains to the moon."*

This blunt sentiment captured the mood on the floor, where 100 European rail freight stakeholders gathered in Krakow to confront a harsh reality. Organized by UIP in cooperation with Polish member association SWP, the flagship conference skipped the usual corporate pleasantries to address a sector living through difficult times. Despite significant investments made under political tailwinds for sustainability and competitiveness, rail freight has not yet increased its modal share. Poland is facing these challenges too but the industry experts and panellists highlighted as well the strides that the country has taken to overhaul its infrastructure and to position the country as a strategic international hub in the TEN-T network. They were still unanimous in the need for a louder and united sector voice to push for more support and concrete actions.

As the second-largest rail freight market in Europe, Poland has been gradually expanding its network and successfully utilizing EU and national funds to construct and modernize over 1,000 km of railway lines. The panellists emphasized that improving reliability and performance must be the next immediate step. They called on governments and the EU for even greater regulatory and financial support as well as reduced bureaucracy to unlock Poland's rail potential.

Panel discussions on intermodal transport revealed that it is seen as no longer just a trend but a necessity for resilient supply chains. Rail however is the current bottleneck due to a crippling list of obstacles: capacity shortages, inadequate terminals, slow processing and a lack of digitized standardization and integration with other modes of transport.

Exacerbating these issues is a volatile market demand that defies traditional forecasting. As one speaker noted: *"The next Nobel Prize goes to whoever can build an accurate model for predictability."*

Rounding off discussions was an inspiring presentation by Agnieszka Lewocka and Agnieszka Grzeslowska from 'Women in Rail' in Poland. They explained how the association puts a much-needed spotlight on the growing impact of women shaping the future of the rail sector and works to foster diversity, leadership and innovation across the industry at both national and European level.

Finally, UIP President Peter Reinshagen concluded:

*"UIP's annual flagship conference – the Keepers' Summit - delivered on its promise: to be a platform for honest and insightful discussions for rail freight stakeholders from around Europe. And honestly, there is a lot of work that needs to be done and not tomorrow but today. The rail freight sector is working on cooperating better so that our messages really break through and lead to actions at political level. What is clear is that rail freight is key to protecting and developing the Single Market which is the basis for our European citizens' growth and prosperity."*

## Background

Founded in 1950, [UIP – the 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). The fourteen member countries are: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

As the voice for more than 255'000 rail freight wagons, UIP represents half of the whole European wagon fleet - one of the most important resources for rail freight transportation in Europe. Research, lobbying and constant exchange with all stakeholders and organisations interested in rail freight transportation play an important part for the association in gearing all efforts towards a step change in efficiency gains in rail freight services.

UIP is recognised by the European Commission as a Representative Body in the railway sector.



29 May 2026

## PROGRAM

9:00 WELCOME COFFEE

9:30 OPENING

**Piotr Malepszak** - Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Infrastructure of Poland  
**Peter Reinshagen** - UIP President  
**Agnieszka Lewocka** - SWP Board Member  
**Adam Zielewski** - SWP Board Member

EN PL

10:00 RAIL FREIGHT STRATEGY & INVESTMENTS

**Piotr Malepszak** - Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Infrastructure of Poland

EN PL

10:30 FACTS AND FIGURES ON INVESTMENTS IN POLAND

**Sylvia Cieślak-Wilk** - Deputy Director CUPT / EU Centre of Transport Projects

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10:45 PANEL - INVESTMENTS IN POLAND

**MODERATOR:**

**Maciej Gładys** - Managing Director, Polish Land Transport Chamber of Commerce & President of ERFA

**SPEAKERS:**

**Marita Szustak** - CEO, Polish Land Transport Chamber of Commerce

**Adrian Furgalski** - Chairman, Railway Business Forum (RBF)

**Lukasz Crzesło** - President, PKP Cargo International

**Lukasz Boroń** - Director General, CARGOUNIT  
 Representative from Centralny Port Komunikacyjny (CPK)

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12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:20 PANEL - INTERMODALITY AND LOGISTICS CHAINS: INFRASTRUCTURE, MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**MODERATOR:**

**Adam Zielewski** - SWP Board Member

**SPEAKERS:**

**Joanna Góździk** - Managing Director of Terminals and Resources, Clip Group

**Dawid Chojnowski** - Technical Director, PCC Intermodal

**Magdalena Bialek** - Head of Sales at Eurowagon

**Karina Jezierska** - Sales Director, Greenbrier

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13:30 WOMEN IN RAIL POLAND

**SPEAKER:**

**Agnieszka Lewocka**

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13:50 CLOSING REMARKS

14:00 NETWORKING LUNCH

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