

Hupac Intermodal Forum

How can innovation help to reverse the intermodal trend in Chemical Logistics?

=> We live in a world where supply chain and transport disruptions are the new normal. Where and how to put the right business focus in this polycrisis?



Lugano

May 22, 2026

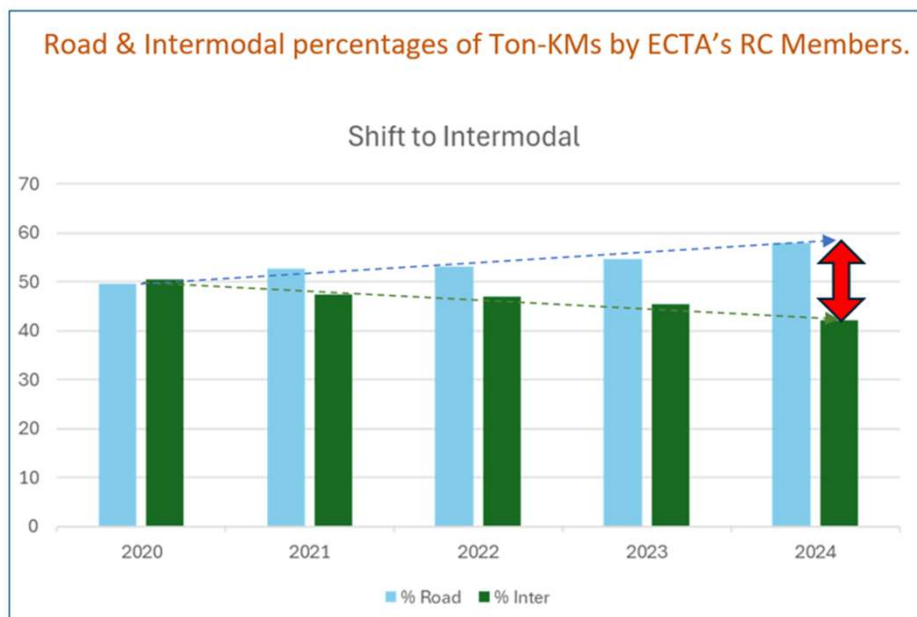
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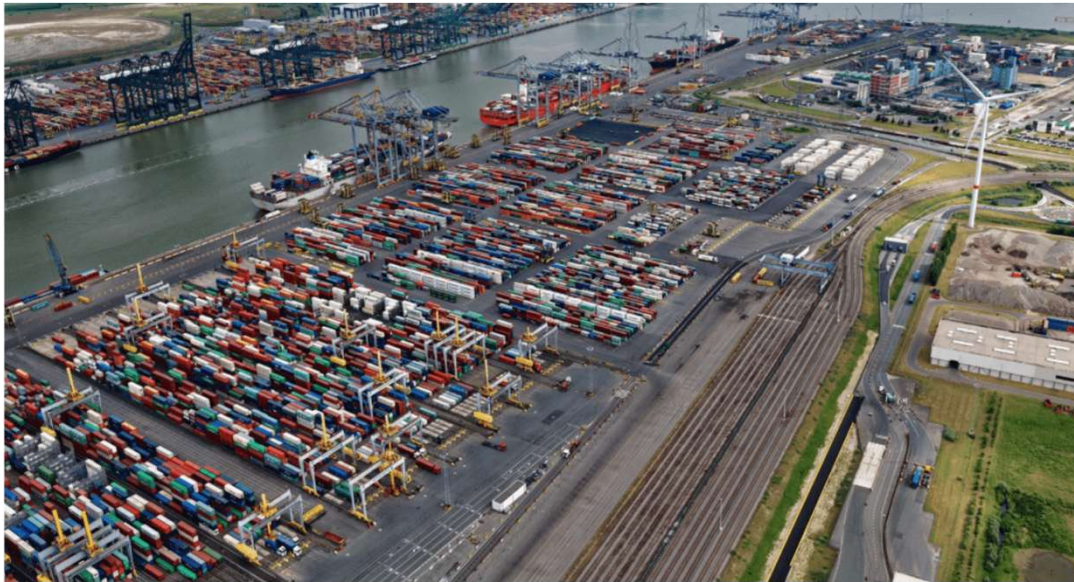
The intermodal trend through the eyes of ECTA members



- The Intermodal - Internal problems:
 1. Delivery Reliability versus Road
 2. Higher intermodal administration costs versus road (*handoff points - # actors*)
 3. Rail infrastructure works
 4. Many fragmented, manual, paper driven controls

All transportation systems are today under pressure to reduce costs and improve service
=> faster and reliable delivery windows required

The intermodal transport requirements through the eyes of Chemical Industry



- The Intermodal – end customer problems:

1. The prediction of an EU recovery in 2025 that hasn't come
2. Inventory mgt and cash flow control remain even more key to survive as a chemical industry
3. Reorganizations & EU production capacity closures
4. From EU Export to EU Import flows

=> In future, the European chemical industry will **focus even more on Working Capital** (=Inventory costs) and push for more **more reliable transport solutions.... Supply chain visibility is key to remain competitive**

=> **Delivery service** (=against requested date) **vs Delivery reliability** (against confirmed/agreed dates)

predictability

The solution: Digital communication & Information exchange

The theory: Generic supply chain example (beer game)

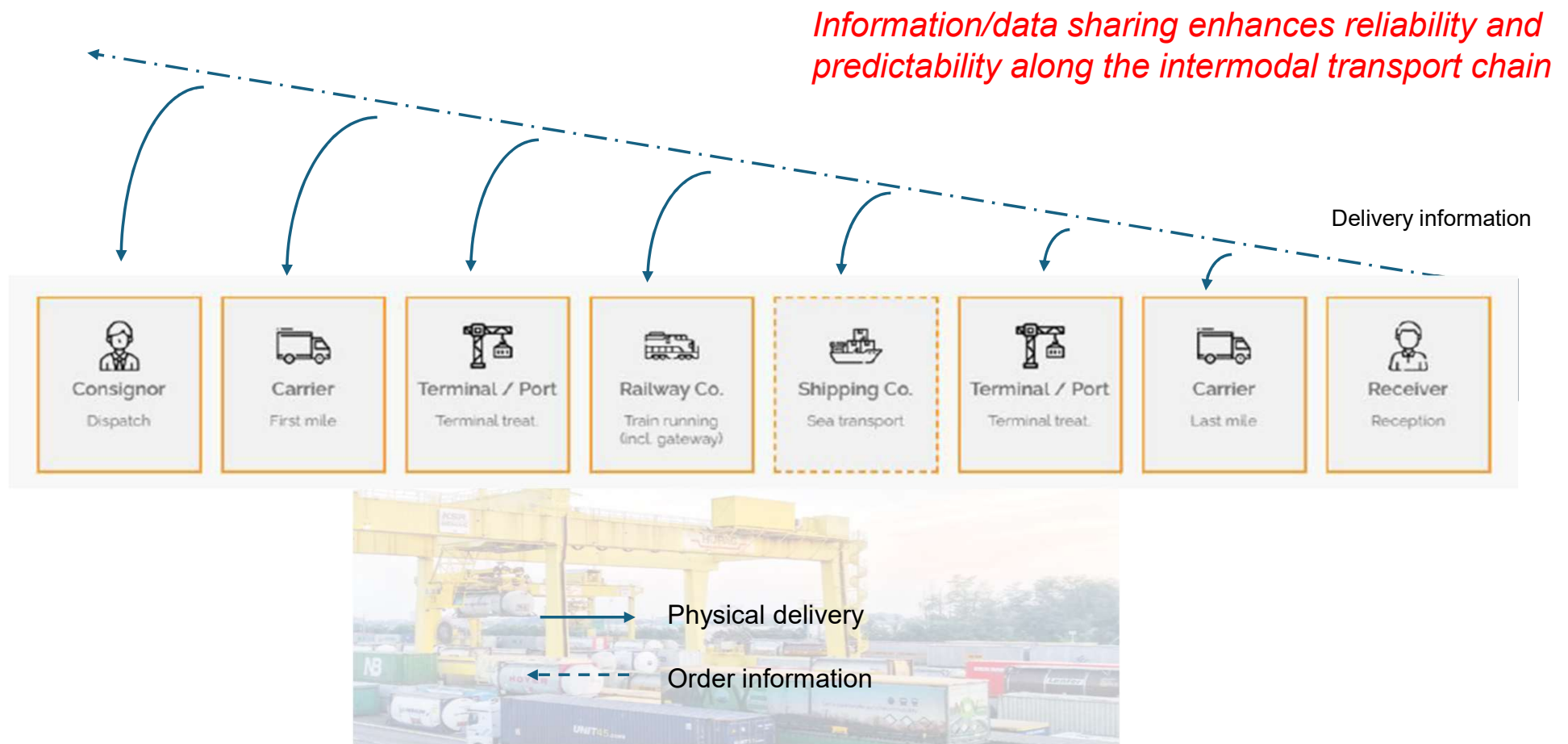
The smoother the information exchange the higher the operational reliability and predictability between the actors, the better the service and the lower the inventory costs => more competitive the "end to end" value chain (eg. Amazon, Walmart,...)



→ Physical product delivery
← Order information exchange



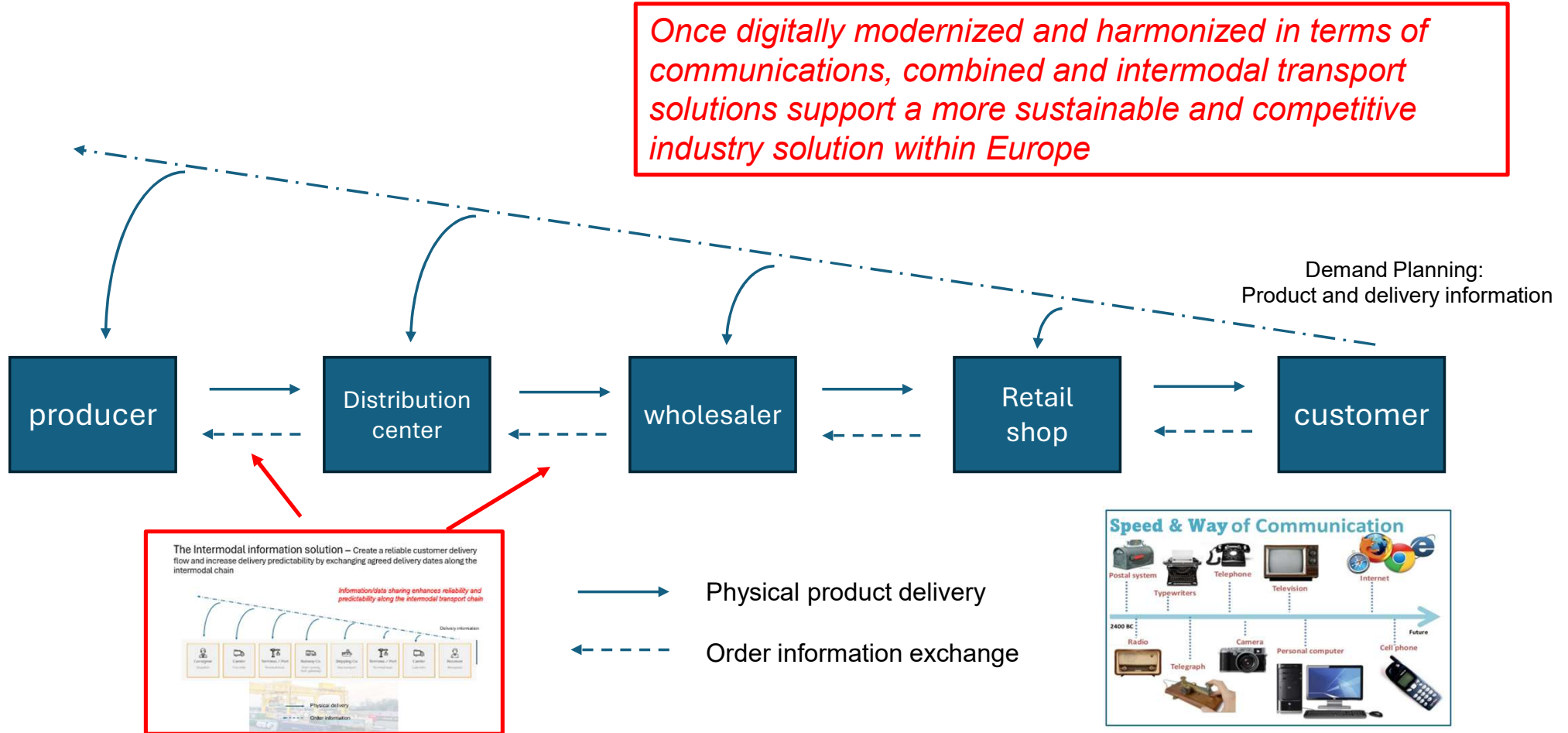
The Intermodal information solution – Create a reliable customer delivery flow and increase delivery predictability by exchanging agreed delivery dates along the intermodal chain



The solution – Communication & Information exchange

Generic supply chain example

Once digitally modernized and harmonized in terms of communications, combined and intermodal transport solutions support a more sustainable and competitive industry solution within Europe



The **collective** intermodal path forward

1. Think “end to end” and remove “siloes communications”
 - Streamline your external communication flows to make intermodal
2. Harmonize the order information exchange
 - UIRR – ECTA –ERFA digital BP guideline
3. Connect the intermodal supply chain to become data driven NOW
 - Engage with stakeholders to adopt digital standards
4. Move towards new digital communications & collaboration
 - From “paper based documents and controls” to “5G mobile communications”
5. **DIGITAL FOCUS:** Start small with ETA data exchanges to regain intermodal competitiveness with road

HOW?
TOGETHER, IT'S A COLLECTIVE INTERMODAL EFFORT

