en

Publication | 10.02.2006

Freight

Much unnecessary transport is being caused by the 'Just-in-time' system of industrial stock management, by differences in social conditions for drivers as between Member States, and most recently by e-commerce. Food travels all over Europe before arriving on our tables! Therefore we need, for example, a revival of local and regional markets, particularly in food. **Avoiding the associated external environmental and social costs is even better than trying to internalise them.**

Our solutions to tackle the freight issue:

- Adjust competition between transport modes to abolish disadvantages for more sustainable modes: **remove unfair advantages for the road and air modes** in the fields of infrastructure financing, taxation, social rules, safety and environmental standards. The EU should keep this in mind in it's liberalisation of the transport market;

- Avoid the decrease of rail transport by 30-40%, as shown in the recent McKinsey study, by a soon **"Eurovignette 3" directive,** that should include minima for higher charging rates pro kilometer (based on internalising the external costs) for all trucks on all roads, as being inspired on the Swiss model;

*The **Swiss model** for charging road freight transport can be considered as a model for the entire Alpine sensitive region and could inspire the EU common transport policy.In Switzerland the toll is not only financing new rail infrastructure but has already created a shift in goods transport. The transport of oil was moved in a few years from a 70% percent road-based scheme to a 70% train-based scheme today.*

- Develop **innovative intermodal solutions** for freight, improving logistics and management within transport (freight via railway, waterborne and combined transport). Well controlled infrastructure use and vehicles occupancy show a potential of at least 20 % energy saving within 10 years;

- Support Electrified **rail networks,** as they have a potential of intensive use of renewable energy sources within its political and industrial frame for both research investments and application investments;
  Double the level on freight rail transport with the installation of a single signalling system (ERTMS) on the freight corridors. The pilot project Rotterdam-Genova should be implemented as soon as possible.

Recommended

Publication



Call for tenders: Greens/EFA Consultation widget

18.10.2026

Publication



Call for tenders: The Greens/EFA CRM Software

08.10.2026

Publication



[Human Resources Management System]

02.10.2025

Publication



[Heads of national delegations in the GREENS/EFA Group]

11.03.2025

Please share

- E-Mail