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[Press release](#) | 19.06.2012

## Oversize trucks

### Commission u-turn on EU gigaliner ban to be challenged by EP

The EP is set to challenge a controversial decision by EU transport Commissioner Siim Kallas to push forward with proposals to reverse current EU policy on heavier and longer trucks (Directive 96/53/EC) without involving the European Parliament and Council as co-legislators. The Commissioner wants to overturn provisions of EU legislation banning the cross-border operation of so-called gigaliners. Cross-party MEPs on the European Parliament's transport committee last night decided to call for the legal assessment of the Commission's plans (1), as a first step to challenging the changes. Commenting on the decision and the Commission's plans, Green transport spokesperson **Michael Cramer** (Germany) said:

*"The Commission's attempt to reverse EU policy on gigaliners by the backdoor is scandalous. The European Parliament will not stand by and allow the Commission to introduce such a fundamental change to current EU policy by circumventing the democratic process. Current legislation can only be amended through a standard legislative procedure, involving the Parliament and the Council as co-legislators. The EP transport committee has now taken the first steps to address this by verifying the legality of and the legal recourse for challenging the decision.*

*"The Commission's role is to defend the treaties and EU legislation, and not to fundamentally change the nature of legislation without recourse to the democratic decision-making process. This move will also create additional legal uncertainty. Instead of continuing on a collision course with the EP, the Commission should withdraw its backdoor plans."*

(1) Following cross-party agreement, the transport committee will send a letter to EP president Schulz asking him to refer the issue to the EP's legal affairs committee to verify that the EP's prerogative as a co-legislator has been undermined by the Commission's plans, and what legal recourse is available.

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Michael Cramer

Member

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