

## **Janusz Poliński: Impact of Road Trains for Rail Transport in Europe**

A cargo transport by road vehicles with increased maximum mass and length involve numerous limitations deriving from the Directive 96/53/EC. A slow process of increasing the essential parameters of road vehicles has many supporters. They see advantages deriving from their exploitation. Both a reduced fuel consumption and a lower emission of toxic substances to the atmosphere are being highlighted. Moreover lower costs of transport are being pointed out. The critics of road vehicles take notice of decreased safety of road transport or of a probability of outflow of a part of cargo from the railway transport. In some countries of the European Union, as well as in Australia and the United States of America, road trains have been operated for many years. However, there are countries where their circulation is forbidden. For several years road operators have endeavored to obtain a possibility of unrestricted circulation of road vehicles on the territory of Europe. In many countries tests and research are executed as well as public consultations, which altogether aim to support decision making process. The questions raised in the article bring closer the problematic of road trains to people dealing with the overland transport.

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