BRRC

FEHRL HEAVY VEHICLES WORKSHOP

Case Belgium

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Size restrictions in Belgium

Maximum authorized lenght for freight combinations

- Articulated vehicle: 16,50 metres
- Road train: 18,75 metres

(EU-directive 96/53EG)

Maximum authorized weight: 40/44 tonnes

Vehicle combinations may exceed these European limits for the transport of dividable goods in national traffic without affecting significantly international competition in the EU!

Belgium: no heavier/longer vehicles are allowed (except for local transport: e.g. harbour area)

Workgroup heavy vehicles

- Time schedule : started in the end of 2005, report for the beginning of 2007
- Objective: To collect objective and scientific information about longer and/or heavier vehicles to feed the debate about the desirability of such vehicle combinations at national/international level
- Composition: Belgian road administrations and some Belgian research institutes
  - Federal Transport and Mobility administration
  - Regional Road administration (3)
  - Belgian Road Safety Institute
  - Road Transport Institute
  - BRRC

Workgroup heavy vehicles

- Methodology :
  No on site experiment → literature data collection, computer simulation and calculation, expert advice, interviews…
- Problems occured :
  * limited budget
  * for specific points : no real expertise
  * political authorities in a hurry
  * pressure of different stakeholders

Workgroup heavy vehicles

CONTENT

- International experience
  (state of the art : the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany)
- Safety aspects (braking distances, safety at slip roads, safety of overtaking measures, interaction with other road users, subjective safety)

Workgroup heavy vehicles

- Ecocomic and mobility aspects: large transport survey of Belgian companies examining the potential interest, profitability of such freight combinations, impact on the modal shift, potential road axes, etc.
- Environmental aspects (pollutant and sound emissions)

Workgroup heavy vehicles

- Impacts on infrastructure (roundabouts, cross sections, roads and bridges)
- Social (driver behaviour and education), juridical (technical legislation) and fiscal aspects

Thank you for your attention

For any comment or question, please contact us :

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