



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY AND TRANSPORT  
DIRECTORATE B - Transport Logistics, TEN-T and Comodality  
The Director

Brussels,  
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**SUBJECT: WORKSHOP ON "GIGALINERS" ON 24 JUNE 2009**

The study on effects of adapting the rules on weights and dimensions of heavy commercial vehicles as established within Directive 96/53/EC has been delivered by a consortium led by TML – Leuven University to the Commission in November 2008 and made public via our website in January 2009.

Due to the limited time and resources available to perform the study we consider, as most of the stakeholders, its results as being limited and deserving further analyses. Our intention is therefore to build upon the work done for us by TML, for which we have engaged the services of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Seville.

The JRC has been given the task of updating and validating the TRANSTOOLS model that is providing DG TREN's econometric analysis for, amongst others, the revised TEN-T strategy. As a first exercise JRC is carrying out extensive sensitivity analysis on the effects of the introduction of the "gigaliners" using a range of demand and modal shift elasticities, going also into some details on vehicle combination characteristics regarding the adverse effects on safety and infrastructure damage.

The JRC's work should be completed within one-two weeks and we intend to organise a stakeholders' workshop to present the results and to consider what should be the terms of reference for any new study. The analysis that JRC will provide should be more realistic than that of the TML study because it will take account of revised economic growth estimates and will also disaggregate the analysis down to Member State level. We shall therefore be in a position to assess more fully how LHVs would affect adverse modal shift not only across the EU as a whole but within Member States, looking also at the demand in different industrial sectors as well as taking account of the different types of rail freight.

I would like to inform you that the stakeholders workshop is at present scheduled to take place on 24 June 2009. Key stakeholders will be invited and given the opportunity to comment on our work and contribute to the establishment of the terms of reference for a possible new study.

Jonathan SCHEELE