

Potential of technological innovation - cost reduction, environment effects



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- Higher levels of standardisation of railway components to reduce life cycle costs and improve the flexibility and hence the availability of trains;
- Increased capacity of the railway system through:
- Reduced weight of rolling stock allowing higher payloads - composite materials could be a potential way of cutting costs and emissions and increasing capacity, reducing damage to tracks and thereby lowering the track access charges required;
- More intensive use of telematic applications: integrated traffic management systems will optimise the use of transport capacity and speed, thereby reducing energy consumption and emissions;
- Enhanced interoperability and telematic applications will also facilitate the streamlining of border crossing processing, e.g. through advanced notification and harmonized documentation;
- Other technologies, mainly to reduce environment impact, include:
 - Electrification, green diesel, energy efficiency...

Technology - YES, but Prices play the key role!



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- Transport sector needs to invest to new technologies, however:
- Insufficient weight is given to environmental issues and too much emphasis is given to technology and the setting of standards
- Prices are given insufficient weight whilst they are a key part of the solution.
- Prices:
 - internalise external costs, under the 'polluter pays principle',
 - change the behaviour of the users of the transport system,
 - lead to wider changes in society:
 - reduce demand for less sustainable transport modes
 - encourage innovation in technology and operational practices.

Prices should be adjusted to adequately reflect the costs of transport to society
→ as soon as is practically possible

In a market economy, prices are the key drivers for demand management and structural change, including innovation and new technology

Thank you for your attention!



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