

## **INTERMODAL TRANSPORT AS A INSTRUMENT SUPPORTING THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE**

### **Summary**

Sustainable development is a fundamental goal of the EU. The real challenge of a sustainable development policy is ensure that economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection can go hand in hand. Despite the aim to decouple transport from GDP growth, the volume of transport, especially road one, continues to rise faster than GDP. This has impacts on traffic congestion and health problems caused by air pollution. The EU has initiated a number of policy initiatives to limit the negative effects of this trend in the transport growth. It is encouraging a shift from road to modes with lower environmental impacts, such as: public transport (cleaner buses), shipping, rail and intermodal. The focus of the paper is on the role of intermodal transport in achieving sustainable transport system and market in Europe. It should be stressed, that Commission has proposed that Member States introduce infrastructure charging to influence transport demand, by moving towards a situation where prices paid by transport users reflect the full costs to society, including external cost of transport. Commission recommends also take possible measures (economic, administrative and legal) for promotion of intermodal transport within ecological transport policies by the Member States.