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Freight Transportation Planning on the European Multimodal Network The Case of the Walloon Region

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Abstract

This paper presents a methodology that can be used for long-term planning of freight transportation on multimodal networks. It is illustrated by research carried out for the Belgian Walloon Ministry of Transport between 1997 and 1999. Its aim was to provide a tool for measuring the impacts of different kinds of policies and/or new infrastructures on freight transport flows in and through Wallonia.

The work started with the setting up of a calibrated multimodal and multi-products reference scenario for the year 1995. This reference scenario was then used as a basis to create a projection for the year 2010: in order to make this projection as realistic as possible, all the decided new infrastructures in Belgium and in the border countries that will be effective in 2010 were introduced in the model. Moreover, expected changes in the O-D matrixes were also introduced at a very detailed level. Then, a set of scenarios was build: one for each transportation mode in which specific changes for that mode were introduced, and one in which the external costs of transport were taken into account.

On the basis of the obtained results, a transportation plan was built, in which the most promising changes in the different networks and policies were chosen. A sensitivity analysis (low and high economic activity) was finally performed.

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