



**DET KONGELIGE
SAMFERDSELSDEPARTEMENT**

*Ministry of Transport and Communications
The Minister*

Member of European Commission Mr. Jacques Barrot
European Commission, DG TREN
101, Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Bruxelles

Your ref

Our ref
05/1150- ESR

Date
12.10.2006

Dear Mr Jacques Barrot, Member of the European Commission,

I would like to consult you in a question of outmost importance concerning Directive 96/53/EC on vehicle dimensions.


I am sure you are aware of the fact that there are specific climatic and topographical challenges affecting the use of vehicle combinations on some of the roads in Norway. Road conditions in winter are often demanding and may give rise to accidents and traffic jams. Narrow, undulating roads and ferries represent other challenges to road haulers on parts of the Western Coast of Norway.

These special conditions have made it necessary to use other types of vehicle combinations with longer total lengths, especially drawbar trailers instead of centre-axle (piggyback) trailers and the use of vehicles with three axles to pull semi-trailers. Such combinations should be acceptable in relation to article 4. no. 4 of the Directive, since they represent limited national transport operations not significantly affecting international competition.

Please find enclosed a note of 6 October 2006 giving some further considerations.

I hope that we can find an opportunity during the Verona IV informal conference next month to discuss this important issue.

Yours sincerely,


Liv Sighe Navarsete