

Project on “Managing the transition to driverless road freight transport”

Dr. Tom Voege, Policy Analyst
International Transport Forum

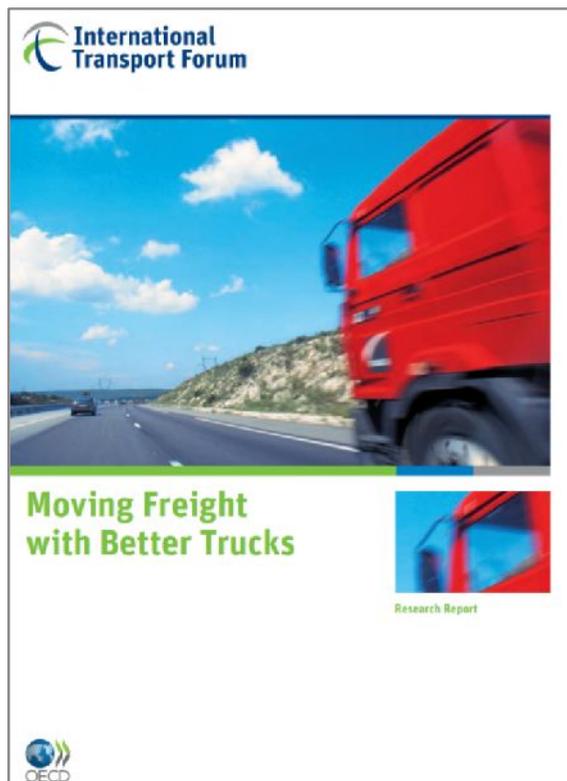
Driving Future Platform Event “Acceptance of Autonomous Driving & its Impact on Society”, European Parliament, Brussels, 6th December 2017

The International Transport Forum of the OECD

Think Tank

Annual
Summit

Intergovernmental
Organisation



Opportunities: Support technology transition

- Social motivations for introducing driverless trucks
 - Lower labour, fuel and insurance costs => productivity
 - Safety => lower human toll (1.25 million people are killed annually worldwide in all road crashes)

- Proposals to facilitate the introduction of driverless trucks:
 - Continue driverless truck pilot projects to test vehicles, network technology and communications protocols
 - Set international standards, road rules and vehicle regulations for self-driving trucks

Challenges: Take care with labour transition

- Broader challenges facing displaced truck drivers and other labour force participants
 - The high costs associated with losing a job => income, well-being and community well-being
 - The risk of a low employment future if the automation wave is pervasive across so many sectors of the economy
 - The emerging economic context means that job losses will result in higher social costs than previously => inequality and less stable forms of employment
- The sheer number of drivers at risk of displacement (1 million in USA and in Europe) plus these factors mean that some transitional arrangements need to be carefully considered

Future jobs for displaced truck drivers

- Remaining and new jobs in the trucking sector
 - Jobs associated with deployment of driverless trucks
 - Remaining driving jobs (e.g. urban, remote control room)
 - Job restructuring to make jobs more diverse
- Remaining jobs in other sectors
 - Differing views among researchers about widespread “technological unemployment”
 - Remaining jobs likely to require greater education, though some non-routine jobs with human interaction should stay
- New jobs in other sectors
 - Should be new jobs created, but there is great uncertainty about when, how many, and in what fields

Proposals for the labour transition

Aim to smooth the introduction of driverless technology, avoid excessive hardship for truck drivers, and ensure the gains from the technology are fairly shared across society:

- Establish a temporary transition advisory board for the trucking industry
- Assess economy-wide support for the un(der)employed
- Consider a temporary permit system to manage the speed of adoption and to support (financially) a just transition for displaced drivers, while ensuring fair access to markets

Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Tom Voege
Policy Analyst

International Transport Forum

Tel: +33 (0) 1 45 24 97 24

Fax: +33 (0) 1 45 24 13 22

tom.voege@itf-oecd.org

www.itf-oecd.org