



1st AUTOSUP Policy Brief

“Enabling Seamless Automation: EU Policy Pathways for Multimodal Freight Collaboration”

Key Findings and Policy Directions

Automation and digitalisation are transforming European freight transport, but fragmented regulations, data barriers, and workforce challenges risk slowing this progress.

Key Regulatory Gaps

1. **Interoperability & Standards**
– Lack of harmonised data formats and protocols.
2. **Legal & Liability Frameworks**
– Unclear rules on accidents, failures, and data breaches.
3. **Cybersecurity & Data Protection**
– Inconsistent certification and enforcement.
4. **Workforce Adaptation**
– Limited training/reskilling for new roles.
5. **Economic & Sustainability Incentives**
– Few mechanisms to support investments aligned with decarbonisation.

Policy Directions

- ✓ **Harmonised EU standards for interoperability and data exchange.**
- ✓ **EU-wide framework for electronic transport documents.**
- ✓ **Clear liability and governance rules to build trust.**
- ✓ **Data sovereignty & secure sharing through common data spaces.**
- ✓ **Investment in training and capacity building.**
- ✓ **Stronger cybersecurity awareness & certification schemes.**
- ✓ **Ports as integrated multimodal hubs adopting EU-wide standards.**

The Way Forward

Europe must move from fragmented initiatives to **coherent, cross-sector frameworks**. Harmonised standards, legal clarity, and secure data governance will enable certainty for investment, while training and incentives ensure that automation benefits **industry, workers, and society**.