Road transport in the European Union produced over 845,000 tonnes of CO₂ in 2014. Trucks account for about a quarter of CO₂ emissions from road transport in Europe, even though they only make up less than 5% of total road traffic.

In 2014, reported emissions from heavy-duty vehicles (HDV) were 13% above 1990 levels.

Unlike for cars, there is currently no binding EU-wide cap on CO₂ emissions from trucks. But the European Commission is considering introducing one in the coming years.
Road transport is becoming more popular. 74.9% of all freight shipped in Europe is sent over land.

Modal split of freight transport in the EU, 2013 (tonne kilometers)

In 2011, the Commission announced its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport to 60% below 1990 levels by 2050.

Fuel combustion in transport in the EU (in thousands of tonnes)

The EU executive estimates that new technologies could reduce emissions from trucks by at least 30%. But emissions have remained the same since the early 2000s because there are more vehicles on the road.

Sources: Eurostat, The International Council on Clean Transportation, European Environment Agency (EEA)