

DB Schenker acquisition could leave DSV with huge climate bill

DB Schenker has not been as ambitious as DSV when it comes to reducing emissions, according to the head of a climate consultancy firm.



Photo: Ivan Boll

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DSV won the battle to take over Deutsche Bahn's logistics business, DB Schenker, but there may be a Pyrrhic element to the triumph, as the DKK 107bn (USD 15.6bn) acquisition potentially comes with a large climate bill, according to Danish newspaper Børsen.

Experts estimate that DSV will take on a fairly large climate impact in connection with the acquisition, but it is difficult to see how much effort and resources will be put into managing it because there is still uncertainty about future climate taxes.

Neither DSV nor DB Schenker will put concrete figures on the challenge, but for DSV it will probably be greater overall.

"Acquisitions typically make it harder to achieve climate goals because many companies that are acquired have not progressed as far in their transition," Ole Høy Jakobsen, Head of Climate at Nordic Sustainability, tells Børsen.

He also points out that DB Schenker is not as ambitious as DSV, and that creates a risk.

"If you suddenly take over a company that hasn't made significant efforts in this area before, it has a big impact," Jakobsen concludes.

English edit: Catherine Brett