



A GLOBAL RESPONSE TO THE
CHALLENGES OF TRANSPORT



The International Transport Forum

The International Transport Forum is being created by transforming the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) into a global body with new mandates and broader scope. As an inter-governmental organisation established in 1953 as part of the OECD, the ECMT has served its members well. But in a rapidly changing world, institutions also need to adapt, and the transformation of ECMT into a more open and global body is a reflection of the need to serve not only Ministries, but also society in general in a more relevant and dynamic way. The aim of the new Forum will be to help both policy makers and the general public gain a deeper understanding of the essential role played by transport.

The secretariat of the Forum will be provided by the existing ECMT Secretariat which will continue in Paris alongside the OECD. The Forum will also benefit from the output of the Joint Transport Research Centre with the OECD.

The transformation of the ECMT from a European body to a global one, from a closed organisation for Ministers and civil servants to one that is open to all, and from one treating only some modes of transport to one that considers the system as an integrated whole are essential components of the challenge to remain relevant and forward looking.



WHAT'S NEW?

■ FROM EUROPEAN TO GLOBAL

The reform of the ECMT into the International Transport Forum is a strategic choice and a commitment. While ECMT had a strong European focus, the Forum will be global in scope. Globalisation has had a radical impact on international trade and an increasing number of transport challenges and problems are now worldwide. Many require global answers.

■ FROM CLOSED TO OPEN

While the ECMT was a closed meeting of Ministers and their delegations, the Forum will be open to a wide audience of transport stakeholders.

■ FROM CIVIL SERVANTS TO CIVIL SOCIETY

The Forum will involve representatives of government and politics, business and industry, research and education. It will be a broad forum of debate and discussion -- the worldwide meeting point on transport, logistics and mobility.

■ FROM SURFACE TRANSPORT TO ALL MODES OF TRANSPORT

The rapid and dynamic development and growth of all modes of transport makes it necessary to take them all into consideration.

Leipzig

The highlight of the International Transport Forum's activities will be its annual meeting, where key figures from government and politics, business and industry, as well as research and civil society will meet to debate on a topic of worldwide strategic importance.

Transport is an area in which the policy debate is defined and shaped by a wide range of diverse and divergent views and opinions. The Forum will provide a dynamic platform for these wide-ranging perspectives to be expressed and heard by decision-makers from government, business, industry and trade.

The theme for the first Forum in May 2008 is **“Transport and Energy: the Challenge of Climate Change”**. The theme is a crucial one for a sector whose role is to facilitate trade and economic growth, but which also must reduce its dependence on oil and limit its environmental impacts.

At the heart of Europe in the dynamic region of Saxony in Germany, Leipzig is a particularly suitable choice as a permanent venue for the Forum. For centuries a crossroads of major trade routes and a centre for commerce, Leipzig has also rapidly developed as a transport and industrial hub. For this reason, Leipzig offers the perfect venue for the future home of the International Transport Forum.



SOME QUESTIONS...

... TO JACK SHORT, SECRETARY GENERAL,
INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM



1/ Why the International Transport Forum?

In May 2005, Ministers agreed in Moscow that the ECMT should be transformed into a publicly recognised international forum, designed to increase the understanding of the importance of transport. In Dublin, in May 2006, they established the International Transport Forum.

The aim of the Forum is to foster a deeper understanding among policy makers and wider audiences of the role of transport as a key to economic growth and of transport's impact on the environmental and social dimensions of sustainability.

2/ Why create a new visual identity?

The creation of the International Transport Forum is a strong political act. We've turned a European organisation serving political decision-makers and senior officials into a more global one, which is open to all transport stakeholders and eager to stimulate discussion and make progress on economic, social and environmental issues relating to transport. So it seemed important to convey this new stance through a more modern, legible and attractive visual identity.

3/ What's the message you wanted to convey through the new logo?

We needed a logo expressing dynamism, movement, flow and interchange, in order to translate the important role that transport plays in everyday life. One cannot overstate the extent to which transport drives the economy forward -- helping people to move around every day, merchandise to be shifted, trade to develop... Transport represents a source of technological innovation and growth for a country. And in the face of challenges as massive as global warming, road safety, and urban congestion, the transport sector has very important responsibilities to assume... and solutions to provide!

MEMBERS

The founding Members of the Forum consist of 51 countries, which were involved in ECMT as Full or Associate Members.

Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, FRY Macedonia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Morocco is an Observer country. Other countries, such as China, India and Brazil, are also being invited to participate in the future.

PARTNERSHIP

The International Transport Forum invites expression of interest from organisations and companies who wish to develop partnerships. To find out more and to see how you might become involved, please contact the Secretariat.

For more information on the Forum, please consult:

www.internationaltransportforum.org

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