

Press Release
23 August 2007

Comments on the German Federal Government's climate protection program

**International Transport Forum 2008 welcomes efforts to
reduce transport-related CO₂; still skeptical about biofuels**

"Germany is playing a leading role in combating climate-damaging CO₂ emissions in the transport sector." This was the opinion that Jack Short, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum, offered on Thursday in Paris, commenting on the climate protection program adopted by the German Federal Government. The proposed mix of measures, he said, represents a good balance of market-oriented and regulatory instruments. "What we really need now is to reach a workable solution at the European level for reducing average CO₂ output", he stressed. This is an obligation for all manufacturers, particularly those in Germany, which with 164 g of CO₂ per kilometre still have a long way to go. The Secretary General emphasized however that even with light and mid-weight vehicles more could be done for efficiency. "Every gram of CO₂ saved is important. We should be striving for reductions across the entire spectrum of vehicles on the market".

In this connection, Jack Short warned once again not to place too much stock in biofuels for reducing CO₂ emissions (see the International transport Forum's press release of 12 June). Few biofuels seem to offer much in the way of climate protection, and they are a very expensive way of addressing these concerns. "What we need, instead, is to boost incentives for greater efficiency, not only in vehicles but in the way transport is organised as a whole", said the Secretary General, adding that we should therefore welcome measures such as a vehicle tax based on CO₂ emissions, or a similar revision to the truck toll.

This issue will be discussed in greater depth at the first International Transport Forum in May 2008 in Leipzig. "High-profile experts from politics, business and industry, science and civil society will be seeking and offering global answers to the challenges that climate change poses for the transport sector". Short was referring to the International Transport Forum that will be held in Leipzig every year starting in 2008. From 28 to 30 May 2008 the topic of "Transport and energy: the challenge of climate change" will be the subject of debate in the Saxon capital.

For further information see www.internationaltransportforum.org

Michael ZIRPEL
Communications Director
International Transport Forum
michael.zirpel@oecd.org
www.internationaltransportforum.org
www.cemt.org