

Press Release

Paris, 23 October 2008

The Global Economy on the Agenda of the International Transport Forum 2009

“Efficient transport is a cornerstone of our global economy”, said the Secretary General of the OECD based International Transport Forum **Jack Short** on Thursday in Paris, while presenting the 2009 Forum, to be held under the title **Transport for a Global Economy - New Challenges and Opportunities from 26 to 29 May 2009 in Leipzig, Germany**. “Today the financial crisis coupled with volatile oil prices poses demanding new challenges for international transport systems”, explained the Secretary General. “A healthy global economy requires a strong and sustainable transport sector.” Competitive transport services operated securely and sustainably are essential for growth and development.

At the 2009 Forum, Ministers of Transport will again be meeting with key leaders from industry, the research sector and civil society to discuss the challenges of globalisation for the transport sector and consider what transport can do to respond to the needs for global economic and social development today. Some key issues to be discussed include what the present economic crisis means for globalisation, what impact high transport costs have on the economy and how the global credit crunch will affect transport investment programmes.

“The 2009 Forum will be a unique opportunity to meet the key transport policy-makers of more than 50 countries”, underlined Mr. Short. The question of a further liberalisation in the transport sector in order to meet the needs of a steadily globalising economy needs to be discussed as well as improvements of the connections of seaports and airports to inland (rail and road) infrastructure. At the same time the environmental and social implications of globalisation are concerning more and more people and they expect answers, stressed the ITF Secretary General.

The Forum will also host an on-site exhibition as a showcase of best practices for industry, transport and logistics firms and there will be an opportunity for young researchers to receive an award by submitting a paper based on their research in this field.

For further information on the 2009 Forum consult www.internationaltransportforum.org.

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