

Press Release

Sydney, 27 January 2009

Jack Short: The Global Economic Crisis needs Global Answers from the Transport Sector

“The international transport sector needs global answers to meet the present economic and financial crisis”, said Jack Short, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum, at a seminar of more than 40 transport specialists from 17 countries in Sydney, Australia, on Tuesday. Together with the Australian Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Anthony Albanese, whose country is co-chairing the Task Force preparing the annual conference of the International Transport Forum, he introduced the preliminary programme of this year’s transport summit being held in Leipzig, Germany, from 26 to 29 May. The theme for the 2009 Forum is “Transport for a Global Economy – New Challenges and Opportunities”.

“The second International Transport Forum is being held at a time when transport is taking the brunt of the financial crisis, with dramatic declines in sales and investment. On the other hand the large stimulus packages currently being deployed by many countries include considerable transport investment. This is one example of how transport is playing a role in the recovery process. We also need to look beyond the crisis; here the long term transport agenda remains unchanged. The world still needs a more efficient, safer, better funded, more interoperable and more sustainable transport system underpinning growth and development”, Mr. Short stated.

Together with senior representatives from government, industry and the scientific community, the 2009 Forum will seek to address some of the key problematic areas connected with the role of transport in facilitating global trade and mobility:

- What does the present economic crisis mean for globalisation?
- Transport and globalisation – Who stands to lose and win?
- Volatile transport costs – What impact for the global supply chain?
- How will the global credit crunch affect transport investment programmes?

“Here in Australia along with representatives of our member countries we are together defining how to take forward these important questions for our sector and global economy at the 2009 International Transport Forum”, explained the Secretary General. At the four day event in Leipzig there will be again a number of substantial industry-research-stakeholder workshops on themes such as the social and environmental impacts of transport, intermodal transport and supply chains, strategic infrastructure

planning and financing, as well as security measures. In cooperation with the airport of Frankfurt, Germany, (Fraport AG) and the German airline Lufthansa there will be a special workshop on aviation. The core of the 2009 Forum will be again high ranking keynote speeches and a dialogue between political decision-makers and key actors from industry. Topics of the panel discussions are “Opening Transport Markets: Who Loses, Who Wins?”, “Supply Chains and Gateways in Volatile Markets” and “Financing Infrastructure: Public and Private Roles after the Credit Crunch”. Finally the Ministers of Transport of the 52 member countries of the International Transport Forum will hold a special session in which they will discuss key messages for the global transport sector.

“The International Transport Forum is the worldwide platform for transport ministers, industry and civil society, where a global consensus on the necessary answers and solutions can be found”, concluded Jack Short. “The two days of fruitful discussion and exchange in Sydney are an important step on the way to this year’s Forum.”

To obtain the preliminary programme and for further information on the 2009 Forum consult www.internationaltransportforum.org.

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