



Press Release



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Joint Prize for Innovation in Transport and Logistics along the Global Supply Chain

“Competitive transport services operated securely and sustainably are essential for growth and development”, said **Jack Short**, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum (ITF) in Paris on Tuesday, announcing the Prize for “Innovation in Transport and Logistics along the Global Supply Chain”, which will be awarded jointly by the ITF, the European Association for Forwarding, Transport, Logistic and Customs Services (CLECAT) and the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) at the 2009 International Transport Forum. This year’s Forum on “*Transport for a Global Economy: Challenges and Opportunities in the Downturn*” will be held in Leipzig, Germany, 26-29 May.

“The financial crisis coupled with volatile oil prices poses demanding new challenges for international transport systems”, explained Mr. **Short**. Therefore transport and logistic companies are now “more than ever seeking to discern the most sustainable and cost-effective ways to carry out their global activity”.

The principal aim of the joint ITF-CLECAT-FIATA award, is to recognise innovative initiatives to meet the challenges of supplying efficient, sustainable, intermodal transport and logistics services across the global supply chain, particularly in the current economic context.

“The regulatory environment is not, and cannot be the only engine behind the changes in our industry: much can be done through new ideas and opportunities that flourish in our younger industry workforce”, said **Jean-Claude Delen**, President of CLECAT. “This is the first time that CLECAT has created a distinction within its own membership. It is a sign of appreciation for the efforts that our companies have made to seek innovative and efficient solutions that benefit their customers and society at large.”

The award is open to transport and logistic companies operating in Member and Observer countries of the ITF (www.internationaltransportforum.org/about/members.html), and will be awarded in three different categories, Multinationals, Regional Operators and Local Operators. Prize candidates should clearly describe how an innovative initiative or procedure implemented within their company has improved the overall quality and sustainability of their services in terms of efficiency, competitiveness and environmental quality.



William M. Gottlieb, President of FIATA, noted that "without innovation, the forwarding industry would not have taken up its current key position in the supply chain. In the precarious economic environment, invention becomes absolutely vital."

The award jury is composed of an international panel of experts from the transport and logistics sectors, delegates from the ITF, CLECAT and FIATA, the European Shippers' Council (ESC) and academia. The prize will be awarded in an official award ceremony attended by Ministers of Transport of Forum Member countries during the Forum in Leipzig.

For more details or to enter the competition, go to www.internationaltransportforum.org; www.fiata.com; www.clecat.org.

CONTACT:

Mary Crass, Principal Administrator
International Transport Forum

Offices:

5th Floor, 2-4 rue Louis David,
75016 Paris, France

Postal address: OECD/ITF,
2 rue André Pascal,
F-75775 Paris Cedex 16

Tel. + 33 (0)1 45 24 13 24
Fax. + 33 (0)1 45 24 13 22
mary.crass@oecd.org

Marco Leonardo Sorgetti, Director General
CLECAT

Rue du Commerce 77,
Brussels, Belgium B-1040

Tel: +32-2 503 47 05
Fax: +32-2 503 47 52
sorgetti@clecat.org