

Press Release

Paris, Istanbul, 1 April 2009

Turkey Encouraged to Develop Intermodal Transport Solutions

ITF Publishes Peer Review on Intermodal Transport in Turkey

“A dynamic logistics industry, combined with a large international road vehicle fleet, underscores Turkey’s potential to become one of the most significant logistics hubs in the region”, said **Jack Short**, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum (ITF), presenting a study on intermodal transport in Turkey in Istanbul on Wednesday, together with the Turkish Minister of Transport **Binali Yıldırım**. But at the same time the Turkish transport sector relies heavily on road transportation which, with increasing congestion and environmental consequences, places it in a very vulnerable position, explained the Secretary General. To overcome this vulnerability and become more sustainable, “Turkey is encouraged to promote intermodal transport solutions that can rapidly yield results without losing the advantages of its competitive road transport system”.

“The process of globalisation has greatly enhanced the scope of international trade, requiring closer and more effective cooperation between countries”, explained Mr. Short. The growing economic interdependence of countries worldwide leads to ever increasing volumes of trade and varieties of cross-border transactions in goods and services. “Transport is one of the most important elements within the framework of such interdependent economic cooperation. Without effective, reliable and efficient transport systems, international investments and trade are seriously hampered.”

The Secretary General stressed “the strategic location of Turkey”. Turkey naturally has the potential to maintain a more balanced and diversified transport system by integrating road, rail and maritime transport coherently. From the ITF’s point of view the present situation should be seen as a driving force for a pressing need to diversify the use of transport modes.

The Peer Review was compiled and published by the ITF Secretariat with the help of recognised intermodal experts upon the request of the Turkish Ministry of Transport and Communications. The purpose of this Peer Review is to provide a general description and assessment of Turkey’s intermodal transport operations. Turkey is one of the founding members of the ITF, formerly the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT).

In general, the Review describes the current situation as well as future prospects for intermodal transport in Turkey, and evaluates its development in the context of Euro-Asia links. It also makes recommendations to promote and improve intermodality in Turkey.

The Review emphasizes that Turkey is already heavily involved in intermodal transport. But still a comprehensive intermodal strategy is needed because the developments in the market are not conducted systematically. A Turkish “intermodal network” or “master plan”, including infrastructure of different modes, does not yet exist. The Review also highlights the fact that Turkey needs to find ways to use its existing infrastructural and market resources to better benefit from other transport modes. Intermodality can serve as a cost-effective, environment-friendly and time-saving alternative for both national and international freight operations.

“However, Turkey does not yet have financial or regulatory incentives to foster intermodal transport operations, such as the tax exemptions and start-up subsidy schemes in Western European countries”, said the Secretary General. The establishment of a clear policy and legal framework as well as financial, institutional and regulatory incentives would ensure a level playing field for the private sector and foster intermodal transport in Turkey.

“If the recommendations in the Peer Review are acted upon, Turkey will greatly facilitate its own trade and will play a central role in providing access to Europe and Middle East, Asian and Caucasian markets”, Mr. **Short** concluded. Progress in and promotion of intermodal transport will also contribute to Turkey’s aim to achieve a sustainable and more balanced national and international transport system. In this way Turkey could also play an important role in recovering from the present crisis.

The Executive Summary of the Peer Review is available at www.internationaltransportforum.org

The full report will be available from the OECD online bookshop www.oecdbookshop.org

Contact: Michael ZIRPEL

Director of Communications

[International Transport Forum](http://www.internationaltransportforum.org)

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 95 96

Assistant: Tel + 33(0)1 45 24 95 88 - Fax. + 33(0)1 45 24 13 22

michael.zirpel@oecd.org

www.internationaltransportforum.org