

Press Release

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Deutsche Bahn CEO Rüdiger Grube Attends the International Transport Forum 2009

The new CEO of Deutsche Bahn AG meets Ministers of Transport and other high-ranking representatives of business and industry from around the world.

“We are very much looking forward to the input of the new CEO of Deutsche Bahn”, said **Jack Short**, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum, on the acceptance of Rüdiger Grube to join this Year’s Forum in Leipzig. From 26 to 29 May, Ministers of Transport from around the world will be meeting in Leipzig along with high-ranking representatives from business and industry, research and civil society at the year’s most important, global transport summit, entitled “Transport for a Global Economy: Challenges and Opportunities in the Downturn”, to discuss solutions for the current economic crisis. “I’m very interested in the International Transport Forum in Leipzig”, said Deutsche Bahn CEO Rüdiger Grube, “because this is the establishment of an internationally recognised Forum for the transport sector. Strategic topics for a forward looking and sustainable transport policy for the 21st century can be discussed at a high ranking level. Intelligent inter-modal connections are of outstanding importance – and we at Deutsche Bahn will contribute to this.”

“As a global mobility and logistics company, the Deutsche Bahn is, on the one hand seriously affected by the present recession; on the other hand, as a key industry player, it can help find ways out of the crisis”, explained Mr. **Short**. Europe and Germany, in particular, need a strong and efficient railway system and dynamic enterprises operating the network. “The participation of the new CEO is therefore important. And DB AG is a valued partner for the International Transport Forum”, the Secretary General added.

On Thursday 28 May, Rüdiger Grube will participate in a panel on “Transport and the Downturn”, joining the Ministers of Transport from Australia, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway, as well as business representatives Joachim Hunold (Air Berlin), John Rice (General Electric), Ron Widdows (Neptune Orient Lines) and others. According to Jack Short this year’s Forum is dominated by the present crisis, but also offers a crucial opportunity to “re-think” the transport system for the 21st century. In addition to the Forum’s 52 member states’ Ministers of Transport, more than 100 speakers are expected to participate in nine workshops and five panels. Keynote speeches will be presented by the economist and writer Jacques Attali, the new US Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, and the Vice President of the European Commission, Antonio Tajani.

The final programme will be online as of this Tuesday at www.internationaltransportforum.org, where information on registration and media accreditation is also available.

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