Press Release
Berlin, May 22nd, 2009

Re-Thinking Global Transport in the Face of the Economic Downturn

Convening in Leipzig, Germany next week, the 2009 International Transport Forum of the OECD brings together 52 Ministers and top business leaders to discuss the future of global transport.

Setting the stage for a re-thinking of global transport in the face of the economic downturn, the 2009 International Transport Forum (ITF) of the OECD will be held next week in Leipzig, Germany, from 26-29 May. With the title “Transport for a Global Economy: Challenges & Opportunities in the Downtown”, the world’s leading platform for the international transport community is a unique opportunity for strategic thinking on the essential role played by transport today and in the future. The ITF is a global inter-governmental platform, which presently brings together 52 Ministries, senior representatives from government, industry and the scientific community. The ITF 2009 will be hosted by Germany, represented by the country’s Minister for Transport, Mr. Wolfgang Tiefensee, and will be held under the presidency of Turkey, represented by Mr. Binali Yıldırım, the Turkish Minister of Transport.

“We hope that the International Transport Forum will find answers to some of the most difficult challenges our sector has ever faced,” said the Secretary General of the ITF, Mr. Jack Short, “and provide some solutions for ways out of the current crisis.” But at the same time, Mr. Short added, “there are also opportunities for sustainable change.”

Alongside the Ministers of the member countries the economist and writer Jacques Attali and the Vice President of the European Commission Antonio Tajani will deliver keynotes in Leipzig. Yet another highlight is the first visit and keynote speech of the new U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Ray LaHood, in Europe.

Amongst others taking an active part in panels and workshops will be the CEOs Peter Bakker, TNT, Tim Clark, Emirates, Stélios Hagji-Ioannou, Easyjet, Joachim Hunold, Air Berlin, Leif Östling, Scania, Scott Price, DHL Europe as well as Ron Widdows, NOL.

For media registration to the Forum and further information, including the full programme, go to www.internationaltransportforum.org/2009.
Please send your interview requests with keynote speakers and other ITF participants to:

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