

Paris, 8 December 2009

ITF Identifies Opportunities for Cutting Transport CO2 Emissions

The International Transport Forum advises United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen on the most cost-effective transport solutions.

At the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15), the International Transport Forum (ITF), the global voice for transport, will be putting the focus on cost-effectiveness policies for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transport. Preliminary findings from a new ITF research report, **“Reducing Transport GHG Emissions – Opportunities and Costs”**, will be presented at the conference.

“Without action, worldwide CO2 emissions from transport will almost double by 2050” said Jack Short, Secretary General of the ITF. “Containing that growth is a massive challenge and the critical issue is to achieve that at reasonable cost”. Further and more widespread economic development implies higher transport volumes and there is as yet no readily available technology to provide these volumes at sharply reduced emissions levels.

According to the ITF report, policy makers must provide industry and consumers with clear, consistent and durable signals to guide low-carbon innovation and decisions on purchasing vehicles, on travel and on settlement patterns. Managing transport and accessibility better can have big benefits for climate policy, for example, by cutting congestion and integrating mass transit systems in rapidly growing cities.

Tough long term fuel economy standards are the key to cutting emissions from road vehicles – the largest source in the transport sector. Standards work best when they are set a decade or more in advance. Tax incentives can have a major impact on sales of low carbon vehicles. Standards and incentives need to be coherent as low taxes or subsidies to auto fuels do not combine well with tough fuel efficiency standards.

Measures for addressing rapidly growing emissions from aviation and maritime transport are under development in IMO, with fuel economy guidelines in preparation, and in ICAO, with technical and operational efficiency improvements being targeted. Some national governments have introduced ticket

taxes on aviation and the European Union is to bring aviation into its carbon emissions trading system. Incorporating aviation into open trading systems is likely to be more effective in reducing global CO2 emissions than ticket taxes.

The preliminary findings of the ITF report will be presented and discussed by an expert panel on “**Major Transport Emission Reductions: What is Possible? At What Cost?**” at the COP15 Conference Centre in Copenhagen, Denmark, on December 15 from 10.45 am to 12.15 pm and will be broadcast publicly online at www.internationaltransportforum.org.

About the International Transport Forum (ITF)

The International Transport Forum is the leading global platform and meeting place for transport, logistics and mobility. It attracts key figures from government and politics, business and industry, research and civil society, coming together to discuss transport topics of worldwide strategic importance. The involvement of more than 50 Ministers of Transport offers many direct links to policy-making and business at both national and international levels. The 2010 Forum, on 26-28 May 2010, will focus on Transport and Innovation: Unleashing the Potential.

Contact Information:

International Transport Forum

Aline Plez/Suzanne Parandian

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 94 35 - Fax. + 33(0)1 45 24 13 22

aline.plez@oecd.org suzanne.parandian@oecd.org

www.internationaltransportforum.org