Drop in global travel volume leads to cut in transport emissions
But drivers for increased Greenhouse gas emissions from mobility remain

A drop in travel volumes in the wake of the global economic crisis has decreased Greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector in many countries. The long-term trend, however, continues to be towards an increase in CO\textsubscript{2} emissions from travel activity, according to a new report released by the International Transport Forum at the OECD for its annual global mobility summit on “Transport and Innovation” to be held in Leipzig, Germany, from May 26-28.

The report says that global CO\textsubscript{2} emissions from transport grew by 45% from 1990 to 2007. It concludes that from 2007 to 2030, transport emissions will continue to grow by approximately 40%. This is only slightly lower than pre-crisis estimates and already takes account of many planned efficiency improvements.

Road sector emissions dominate transport emissions, with light-duty vehicles accounting for the bulk of emissions globally. In some of the International Transport Forum’s 52 member countries, road freight accounts for up to 30% to 40% of road sector CO\textsubscript{2} emissions. Emissions from global aviation and international shipping respectively accounted for 2.5% and 3% of total CO\textsubscript{2} emissions in 2007 and are the fastest growing sources of transport CO\textsubscript{2} emissions.

Across the economy, the crisis of 2008 has contributed to the sharpest drop in emissions in the past 40 years, with estimates ranging from 3% to 10%. This could translate into a 5% to 8% decrease in 2020 emissions from their pre-crisis projected levels, depending on the strength of the economic recovery.

Despite countries gaining some breathing room due to the post-crisis drop in GHG emissions, fundamental drivers for increased transport sector CO\textsubscript{2} emissions remain and necessitate coordinated policies to limit future emissions. Some countries, notably France, Germany and Japan, have seen their road CO\textsubscript{2} emissions stabilised or decrease even before the recession of 2008-2009, despite economic and road freight growth over the same period.

For detailed country-by-country data please visit www.internationaltransportforum.org/statistics/CO2/index.html.

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