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Breakthrough in Truck Licence Dispute Welcomed

Russia lifts restrictions on cross-border road transport/Bilateral agreement with Poland

Jack Short, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum, expressed his satisfaction on the breakthrough in the impasse over the organisation's multilateral license system. "This decision is good for Russia's economy and trade and sends a positive signal about multilateral cooperation in transport", said Short.

Multilateral licenses facilitate international road freight transport by allowing hauliers to cross borders with just one permit, rather than having to apply for several bilateral licenses. The system operates with the cleanest trucks and so supports environmental improvements in the road sector. The system is administered by the International Transport Forum, an intergovernmental organisation based at the OECD.

At a meeting of the International Transport Forum on Wednesday in Paris, Russia agreed to lift a reservation on the quota system it had temporarily imposed in 2010. Russia was able to lift its reservation as it could accept the main findings of a report undertaken at the request of the Russian Minister of Transport, **Igor Levitin**, on improvements to the operation of the quota system and improved implementation of Ministers' decisions.

In the margins of the same meeting, Poland and Russia signed a new bilateral road transport agreement to resolve serious recent problems on road transport between the two Countries. Short welcomed this agreement: "This illustrates the role of the organisation in facilitating dialogue and closer cooperation between International Transport Forum member countries."

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