PRESS RELEASE

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Transport Ministers meet for global summit

Annual conference in Germany to focus on better connectivity
• Keynotes by Ferrari chairman and OECD Secretary-General

Transport Ministers from the 53 member countries of the International Transport Forum at the OECD gather in Leipzig, Germany today for a three-day summit on the future of global mobility.

The 2012 summit is headlined “Seamless Transport: Making Connections” and will ask how better connectivity can improve lives and stimulate the economy. Prominent keynote speakers in Leipzig will include Luca di Montezemolo, Chairman of Ferrari and of Italy’s new private high-speed rail provider NTV which launched its service on 28 April, and Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Gurría will also be presenting the Forum’s 2012 Transport Outlook. Issues for discussion include:

► Rethinking the Last Mile: What new approaches exist for freight delivery in cities?
► The Future of Travel: How does e-Ticketing, smart-phone use and data sharing change mobility?
► Facilitating global trade: Connectivity across borders
► Transport for Growth: Can better connectivity stimulate economic activity?
► Smart Grids: How to power the e-mobility future?
► Collaboration in connectivity: Achieving seamless transport between cities and regions

The event includes a Ministerial meeting, panel discussions with leaders from business, research and civil society as well as bilateral and informal meetings. For the first time, the Ministers’ meeting will be partly open to the media.

“Connectivity is a 21st century megatrend”, said Michael Kloth, Acting Secretary-General of the International Transport Forum. “The digital revolution has made it easier to link up, but people and markets also long to be better connected in physical ways.”

“Enabling transport to become more seamless – between modes and systems, across borders, regulatory frameworks and ownership structures – will stimulate creativity, set free resources, help economic growth and provide better solutions for transport users,” said Kloth.

► Full programme and webcast of key events: www.internationaltransportforum.org/2012
► Photos for media use: www.flickr.com/photos/internationaltransportforum
► Follow the 2012 Summit on Twitter: @ITF_Forum

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