



FORUM 2009 • 26-29 May • Leipzig

TRANSPORT FOR A GLOBAL ECONOMY

*Challenges and Opportunities
in the Downturn*

KEY MINISTERIAL MESSAGES

Transport Ministers met with industry stakeholders, research and civil society representatives at the 2009 International Transport Forum: ***Transport for a Global Economy: Challenges and Opportunities in the Downturn. Key Messages emerging from the Ministerial discussion*** emphasised the importance of:

- efficient transport systems and sound investments;
- maintaining progress towards open markets;
- addressing unintended environmental and social consequences of globalisation;
- finding adequate funds for transport and prioritising scarce resources; and
- reliable and secure supply chains.¹

An efficient global transport system will play a significant role in the economic recovery. Ministers expressed concern about how severely the transport sector has been affected by the downturn in the global economy. They underlined how transport is a crucial prerequisite for a successful economy and social well-being. Transport investment can form an important part of well-designed stimulus packages provided it is properly prioritised on the basis of a rigorous evaluation, capable of being quickly implemented and contributes to sustainability objectives.

Trade and open markets are keys to global recovery. Protectionist measures are not a sustainable solution. Where markets have been opened, there have been substantial benefits to economies and citizens. The current economic downturn will not reverse the underlying trend to increased globalisation and international division of labour. The process of market opening and competition needs to be continued, while addressing equity and improving quality, safety and environmental standards.

Economic recovery in the transport sector should be environmentally sustainable. Agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen and in other organisations such as IMO and ICAO, should enhance international actions for the mitigation of transport emissions, and build on the conclusions of the 2008 International Transport Forum. Governments working together can promote cost-effective low carbon sustainable transport that meets the challenges of the future and the needs of citizens, business and the global community.

.../...

¹ Background reports from experts and the Secretariat are available from the ITF (website <http://www.internationaltransportforum.org>)

It is necessary to secure a high level of long-term investment in transport. Whilst acknowledging governments' responsibility in planning and financing transport infrastructure, the importance of private investment and public private-partnership was endorsed. Sound analysis should underpin investments in the global transport system, with a solid evidence base to support decision-making.

International supply chains need to be secure and reliable. Co-ordinated and risk-based regulation is vital to ensure that economic and security benefits are achieved in a cost-effective and equitable way. Improving border crossing has significant potential to improve efficiency and facilitate trade.

Ministers are determined to continue to work together internationally. The ITF will provide an important forum for this engagement. These challenging times present a window of opportunity to rethink, to review and to reform policies, systems and technologies to stimulate development towards a sustainable and more effective global transport system. Innovation will be a key to success, and Ministers agreed that it should be the central topic for the 2010 Forum.