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Global Mobility Summit Convenes in Leipzig, Germany

More than 800 decision-makers from 52 member countries of the International Transport Forum debate the role of innovation in global transport

Headlined *Transport and Innovation: Unleashing the Potential*, the annual three-day summit organised by the International Transport Forum, an intergovernmental organisation within the OECD, is kicking off today with a keynote speech by famous Swiss aviator and explorer Bertrand Piccard, the driving force behind the project to fly a solar-powered airplane non-stop around the world.

“Visionaries like Bertrand Piccard can inspire all of us to help deliver the incredible potential that innovation holds for the world of transport”, said **Jack Short**, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum on the occasion. “Transport must seek new ways, and get better at its old ways, if it wants to overcome its dependency on oil and provide greener, safer, more efficient and more accessible mobility for all.”

The volcanic ash cloud and e-mobility will be two of the topics debated by leaders from politics, business, research and stakeholder organizations will during the Leipzig Forum. Others include:

- The Future of Air Transport
- Supply Chains: Green and Efficient?
- The Wireless Revolution in Transport
- Is the Future Electric?

Further keynotes will be delivered by:

- Horst Köhler, President of Germany
- Siim Kallas, Vice President of the European Commission
- Amar Bhidé, Harvard University
- Ian Goldin, Oxford University
- Wolfgang Mayrhuber, CEO, Lufthansa
- John Micklethwaite, Editor-in-Chief, The Economist

A ministerial session with Transport Ministers from International Transport Forum member countries and, as a special guest, China, will discuss policy innovations to foster innovation and create the transport system of tomorrow.

For further information visit www.internationaltransportforum.org/2010/index.html. You can follow all events live on our webcast at <http://webtv.internationaltransportforum.org/>.

For any further information or interview requests, please contact Michael Kloth, Head of Communications, at +33 6 27 21 47 41 (cell) or michael.kloth@oecd.org.

The International Transport Forum is a strategic think tank for the transport sector. Each year, it brings together Ministers from over 50 countries, along with leading decision-makers and actors from the private sector, civil society and research, to address transport issues of strategic importance. An intergovernmental organisation linked to the OECD, the Forum's goal is to help shape the transport policy agenda, and ensure that it contributes to economic growth, environmental protection, social inclusion and the preservation of human life and wellbeing. The 2010 International Transport Forum, to be held on 26-28 May in Leipzig, Germany, will focus on Transport and Innovation: Unleashing the Potential.