

SESSION KEY POINTS AND QUOTES

Facilitating Global Trade: Connectivity Across Borders

Wednesday, 2 May, 16:30-18:00

The Panel

- Conny Czymoch – Moderator
- Kamen Kitchev, Deputy-Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, Bulgaria
- Denis Lebel, Minister, Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Canada
- Doris Leuthard, Federal Councilor, Federal Department of the Environment, Transport and Communications, Switzerland
- Andreas Kopp, Lead Transport Economist, The World Bank
- Pere Padrosa, President, Grup PADROSA, Spain
- K.L. Thapar, Chairman, Asian Institute of Transport Development, India
- Gaozhang Zhu, Director, Compliance and Facilitation, World Customs Organization

Overview of Session

Crossing borders has always been a problem in transport. While steady progress was made to simplify procedures and reduce delays and costs, a set of new borders was created in some regions. This, and a sharp increase in security measures for international travel and trade resulted from terrorist attack of September 2001 demonstrates that international transport still faces a wide range of obstacles and costs in crossing borders.

Key Points:

- Costs of border delays are still very high all over the world particularly impacting developing economies. On average one day delay in transit reduces trade by more than one percent.
- Infrastructure, information technologies and legal framework at international level exist; but implementation remains uneven across countries.
- Cross-border co-operation and inter-agency coordination within a country are crucial to success.

Key Quotes:

“In three years time, borders from the customs perspective shall start becoming virtual...”- Gaozhang Zhu.

“The issue is we are adding layers and layers of regulations in the name of harmonisation.” - K.L. Thapar.

“One new regulation introduced, one regulation will be scrapped.” - Denis Lebel.

Staff Contact:

Elene Shatberashvili

elene.shatberashvili@oecd.org