

SESSION KEY POINTS AND QUOTES

Opening Plenary: From Here to Seamlessness

Defining the Roadmap for 21st Century Transport

Wednesday, 2 May, 14:45-16:15

The Panel

- Pat Cox - Moderator
- Giuseppe Sciarrone, Managing Director, Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori, Italy - Keynote
- Catharina Elmsäter-Svärd, Minister, Infrastructure, Sweden
- Vera Kobalia, Minister, Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia
- Peter Ramsauer, Federal Minister, Transport, Building and Urban Development, Germany
- Osamu Yoshida, Senior Vice-Minister, Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan
- Koji Miyahara, Chairman, NYK Line, Japan

Overview of Session

Seamless transport is a powerful and ambitious strategic vision for the future of our transport systems. This session considered the broad perspective of transport and how establishing policy and institutional frameworks, as well as continued co-operation among all levels of government and across industry sectors can engender inter-governmental and private sector co-operation and define the roadmap towards seamless transport.

Key Points:

- Seamless transport creates growth and improves quality of life.
- International co-operation and mutual learning is key to seamless transport.
- Challenges differ between countries. In developed countries seamlessness is mainly about boosting efficiency. In developing ones the task is to construct well-connected systems to meet rapidly growing demand.
- High quality cross-border transport systems, including smooth customs operations, increases market size and opens new business opportunities.
- Investments should be made within a systems view, not a modal view. Modes should be used where they fit best and this requires smooth interchanges.
- Reducing transport energy consumption is to be an international policy priority.
- Preparedness for dealing with disruptions including natural disasters or piracy is a key feature of seamlessness.

- Growing demand will require more infrastructure but it is imperative to also make better use of what we have.

Key Quotes:

Pat Cox: "Seamless transport means moving from a patchwork to network and from supply chains to supply streams."

Koji Miyahara: "One of the best utilisations of information technology is in delivering connectivity in transport."

Catharina Elmsäter-Svärd: "Seamless transport is about saving time and time is something that we lack. "

Vera Kobalia: "We aim to be the hub for a regional economy of 100 million people. Seamless transport is the key and goods now clear customs at our borders in just 20 minutes."

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