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**environmentally
sustainable transport**

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Leisure Travel, Tourism Travel,
and the Environment

Berlin, Germany
4-5 November, 2004



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT



Umwelt
Bundes
Amt



LEISURE TRAVEL, TOURISM TRAVEL, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Berlin, Germany, 4-5 November, 2004

Background

Leisure activities and tourism are major factors in the economies of OECD countries. Tourism and travel in particular have been said to contribute more than 10 per cent of world GDP, when direct and indirect impacts are taken into account, and even larger shares of the economies of and employment in OECD countries. Tourism activity appears to have increased substantially over the last few decades and there are expectations of further increases.

Leisure travel has a strong environmental impact because it comprises the major use of the automobile within and between urban regions. Most attention has been paid to commuting and other work-related journeys. Non-work journeys are much more likely to be made by car and the overall impacts of this travel may be much greater than those of work-related journeys. Within the OECD, road transport is a major source of environmental impacts stemming from air and water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, noise levels, and land-take.

Travel for tourism—i.e., longer non-work journeys involving an overnight stay—involves substantial amounts of car use. Such travel can also involve much air travel, which has grown much more rapidly than car use during the last 20 years. Air travel can be of special concern because it uses large amounts of fossil fuels and results in a disproportionately large contribution to global warming on account of the especially strong effect of greenhouse gases when produced as a result of flight at high altitudes. Growing dependence on aviation is problematic because it is the mode for which there appear to be the fewest prospects for alternative fuels.

Solutions for alternative leisure activities and new tourism packages with much less environmental impacts have been developed in many countries. Some of these promising programmes that promote sustainable leisure and tourism travel will be reviewed at this workshop with a view to developing recommendations and guiding principles for sustainable leisure and tourism travel.

Workshop objectives

The main objectives of the workshop are these:

- To raise awareness of the environmental and other impacts of leisure travel and tourism travel.
- To clarify trends in these kinds of travel and their particular environmental impacts, throughout OECD Member countries.
- To add to understanding of the factors contributing to the trends and how they might be modified.
- To present options and best practices for less transport-intensive leisure and tourism activities and otherwise mitigate environmental impacts in ways that help sustain their economic contributions.

Background and issues papers will be prepared to facilitate discussion of these matters at the workshop.



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Venue and organisation

The workshop will be held in Berlin, 4-5 November, 2004 organised by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and hosted by the German Federal Environmental Agency (Umweltbundesamt).

General registration is limited to 70 persons. The workshop will be conducted in English.

How to register

To register for the workshop or to ensure you will receive subsequent information about the workshop, please provide your full coordinates by e-mail to one of the following:

Adam Troman
adam.troman@oecd.org

Hedwig Verron
hedwig.verron@uba.de

Please indicate clearly whether you wish to register for the workshop or wish only to be on the mailing list for workshop materials. **For registration, an early response is recommended because of the capacity limit.**

Workshop programme and availability of further information

The provisional programme for the workshop is on the next two pages.

A more detailed programme for the workshop will be available early in September 2004. The general plan for the workshop is to have no more than two or three speakers per session and to ensure that at least half of each session is dedicated to facilitated discussion among workshop participants.

The full programme for the workshop will be available in mid-October 2004 together with background papers that will help set the stage for the workshop discussions.

All information about the workshop will be sent by e-mail to workshop registrants and to others who have indicated an interest in the event. The information will also be available at the OECD's EST Web site (see the 'What's new' section at www.oecd.org/env/transport).



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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Workshop on LEISURE TRAVEL, TOURISM TRAVEL, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Berlin, 4-5 November, 2004

4 November 2004

Opening Increasing leisure and tourism travel – a growing environmental concern

This session will introduce the workshop, set out its context and purposes, and provide a general overview of the significance of leisure travel and tourism travel and its environmental impacts.

Session 1. Leisure travel and tourism travel: trends, significance and impacts

This session will provide a detailed look at leisure travel and tourism travel in each of Europe, North America, and Japan, highlighting trends, environmental impacts, and importance for the regional economy.

Session 2. Leisure travel: driving forces of growth and changing patterns

This session will examine the driving forces in leisure travel, particularly travel for leisure purposes that has major environmental impacts. The session will provide analyses of social and lifestyle contexts that influence individual travel behaviour as well as regional differences in settlement structures and other land-use arrangements.

Session 3 Leisure travel: solutions and alternatives with less environmental impacts

This session will focus on ways of reducing environmental impacts. Practical examples and programmes will be highlighted in a series of short presentations.

Session 4: Leisure travel: Conclusions and recommendations (panel discussion)

This session will summarise the findings and develop recommendations for measures and instruments to encourage more sustainable leisure travel.

/the programme for 5 November is on the next page



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5 November, 2004

Session 5. Tourism travel: driving factors of growth

This session will examine the driving factors and changing patterns in tourism travel with a focus on trips that have major environmental impacts. The session will analyse the main motivations for travelling, and for choice of destination and mode.

Session 6. Tourism travel: solutions towards sustainable tourism

This session will review products and programmes such as eco-tourism and car-free tourism, and examine their environmental benefits. The emphasis will be on practical examples that offer sustainable tourism travel.

Session 7 Tourism travel: Conclusions and recommendations (panel discussion)

The focus here will be on instruments and measures that promote and facilitate sustainable travel for tourism. The panel will also discuss conclusions and propose recommendations for policy.

Session 8: Concluding panel and discussion

Workshop participants will be invited to discuss and endorse a set of conclusions and recommendations for governments and business concerning sustainable leisure travel and tourism travel. They could include goals and targets, as well as guiding principles for environmentally sustainable leisure travel and tourism travel. As well, the session will consider recommendations for further work.