OECD TO HOLD SPECIAL MEETING ON GLOBALISATION
IN THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Paris, Friday 3rd April 1992

The OECD is to hold a meeting on globalisation in the automobile industry, bringing together some 40 experts and representatives from industry, government and universities, at its Paris headquarters on Friday, 3rd April.

The one-day meeting will explore trends in globalisation of the automobile industry and their implications for national policies as well as for current international rules of the game affecting investment, trade and competition issues.

The automobile industry is one of the most globalised in the world, characterised by extensive foreign investment, equity cross-holdings, and a broad range of agreements concerning joint development, production and marketing of components and vehicles. Sub-contracting arrangements and supply links are increasingly international, with many suppliers now locating foreign investments in major automobile-producing areas in Europe, Japan and North America. At the same time, the industry faces problems of over-capacity, rationalisation, and adjustment to new patterns of international trade and investment. Political frictions at the international level often compound these difficulties.

Participants will look particularly at the following questions: competitiveness, especially in relation to advancing technology; foreign investment, sourcing and local content; trade barriers of various types, and the problem of managed trade; strategic alliances and competition. The discussions are likely also to focus on efforts to improve transparency of policies in this friction-prone industry.

The meeting will not be open to the press, but a concluding statement is expected to be issued. Further information is available from the OECD Press Division, 2 rue André Pascal, 75775 Paris cedex 16.

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