

PRESS RELEASE

Logistics alliance calls for EU high-level group on logistics

BRUSSELS, November 2009 – At the 2nd European Logistics Summit on 4 November, the Alliance for European Logistics (AEL) presented the European Commission with 10 recommendations to ensure a sustainable and integrated European transport policy over the next ten years, calling for the creation of a high-level EU stakeholders' group for logistics.

The recommendations set out an ambitious policy agenda for logistics, at a time when the EU is responding to major challenges such as economic recovery and climate change.

“The logistics industry and its customers will be able to deliver many solutions to these challenges. However, this requires intensified joint efforts with EU policymakers,” declared Frank Appel, Chief Executive Officer of Deutsche Post DHL, at the Summit. “We urge the EU to set up a high level stakeholder group and a European Parliament think tank for logistics, where the major issues in logistics can be discussed,” Mr Appel noted.

The logistics sector was the largest in Europe in 2008 with estimated revenue of € 950 billion. Consequently, the AEL urged the Commission to create a more integrated longer-term policy strategy for logistics, based on realistic scenarios for 2020 and recognising that logistics is the backbone of European competitiveness.

According to Mario Astengo, Senior Vice President, Customer Satisfaction & Quality, IVECO: “Logistics is critical to improving the efficiency of business. The focus of Europe’s policymakers must be to find a policy framework that unlocks this potential not restricts it.”

The recommendations underline the key policy measures that need to be considered within the upcoming White Paper on the Future of European Transport Policy in 2010.

Xavier Ponsar, the Director of European Logistics at Michelin noted: “A cross-modal transport policy and the completion of the internal market for all modes of transport should be the key priorities in 2010 for the upcoming European Commission.”

The Alliance for European Logistics (AEL) was conceived at the 1st European Logistics Summit, in November 2008 and builds on a shared commitment by its members, Air France KLM, BASF, CEVA Logistics, Deutsche Post DHL, Group Carrefour, IVECO, and Michelin. The AEL is committed to raising the profile and understanding of the logistics industry amongst European policymakers.

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Annex: 10 recommendations

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