

The French Ambassador comments on the first Franco-British Transport Conference

London, 1st October

The French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain, in partnership with the French Embassy and the Franco-British Council, is organising a conference on transport where the main challenges of urban mobility, its financing and innovation will be debated.

HE Sylvie Bermann, French Ambassador to the United Kingdom comments 'I am delighted with the initiative by the French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain to organise the first Franco-British Transport Conference, in partnership with this Embassy. The theme chosen, Meeting the Challenges for the City of Tomorrow, is a subject of shared interest for France and the United Kingdom, given the challenges of urban and demographic growth faced by our major cities – first of all because London and Paris are comparable in terms of public transport (some 9 million journeys a day in Paris and 10 million in London); secondly because the major French groups in the urban and rail transport sector all have a presence in the UK, where they account for some 15,000 jobs; and finally because Paris and London have the distinctive characteristic of being two major European capitals interconnected via the Channel Tunnel. For these reasons, I think it is of great interest that Paris and London will be able, at this conference, to share their visions of the challenges in terms of organising and funding urban transport.'

More than 200 leaders from across the transport sector are expected to attend the conference, which will take place on Tuesday 14 October 2014 at One Great George Street (08.30-17.00).

The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport, will be the guest of honour and will give the closing speech. In addition to a number of speakers from the transport sector, there will be two panel discussion moderated by transport journalist Christian Wolmar. The first will be on the financing of urban transport by bringing public and private investors together and the second on innovative solutions for urban transport in the digital age.

The main sponsors of this conference are Alstom, Bouygues Energies & Services, HSBC, Keolis, Renault and TomTom. The supporting sponsors are Altran and Bolloré. Hotel partner: Sofitel.

Attached is the programme and list of speakers and panellists who have confirmed their participation.

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Press accreditations for the conference: Marielle Fraize, Corporate Communications Executive, mfraize@ccf gb.co.uk - +44 (0) 20 7092 6648

Note to Editors:

About the French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain - The French Chamber is the largest foreign chamber in the UK in terms of both turnover and range of services offered. Our main aims are to provide a platform of exchange and networking at the service of the Franco-British firms in the UK, to promote our 600 members' interests to key decision makers and to help develop economic and commercial relations between France and the UK. Our Business Consultancy and Implantation departments provide both British and French companies with a large range of bespoke professional services. The 75 events we organise a year, with leading figures of the British and French political and business worlds, offer great opportunities for our members to develop their business and expand their network of contacts. Additionally, the Forums and the Clubs we have launched over the past five years, focusing on issues or sectors such as Human Resources, Climate Change, Cross-Cultural Relations, Finance, Legal, Luxury and SMEs, offer our members dedicated platforms to exchange experiences at the highest level of management and to share best practice.