

## **IV International Media Forum On the Protection of Nature**

### **"Protection of Nature, Protection of Health"**

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#### ***Abstract***

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### **"Linking Health and Environment towards a Sustainable Mobility"**

Most of the world population growth in the next thirty years will occur in cities and town of developing countries - the same countries and cities that often have the most limited resources and capacities to address adequately the serious challenges related to such a rapid growth and massive concentration of population.

Increased urbanization has led to greater demand for mobility worldwide. Moving goods and people has long been critical to social and economic development. Encompassing some of the fastest growing industries, transport plays an essential role in the economies of all countries and is critically important for virtually all industries and activities.

However, under its current pattern consuming over 50% of world oil production and contributing to one quarter of the greenhouse gazes emitted to the atmosphere each year, transportation activities are also responsible for some of the most serious environmental hazards and health risks faced by many developing cities. Preventing and mitigating these problems remains a major sustainable development challenge.

In the European context, transport related health and environment risks have been a major focus of joint policy dialogue for more than a decade, for example within the Pan European Programme for transport, health and environment. But in many developing countries, health and environment consequences of transport choices both local and global have not yet received priority attention and are often overlooked when transport planning decisions are made.

The presentation will provide an overview of the main health and environment impacts related to transport trends in developing cities, including contribution to green house gazes emissions, land use, urban air pollution, road traffic injuries, sedentary lifestyles, poverty and inequalities. It will also highlight some of the main obstacles and barriers along with proposing some principles, methodologies, policy actions and examples of best practices in balancing the development, environment and health dimensions of the highly complex equation of sustainable mobility.