

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Express delivery plays essential role in Europe's economy, report confirms

Brussels, Belgium – 13 December 2011 - The European Express Association (EEA) today welcomes the results of a report on the express sector published by *Oxford Economics*, a leading global research firm. The report analyses the size and reach of the express delivery industry within the EU27 economy and finds that it supports no less than 579,000 European jobs and over €23.4 billion of EU27 GDP. The last study into the European express industry was published in 2004.

Jaap Mulders, Chairman of the EEA said: “In this economic climate, Europe needs to do everything in its power to promote growth and jobs. This report demonstrates again the value that the express industry brings to Europe, not only in terms of jobs, but also the knock-on effect on the wider parts of the economy we support, such as high-tech manufacturing, healthcare, financial services and e-commerce.”

The core business of the express delivery industry is the provision of value-added, door-to-door transport and deliveries of next-day or time-definite shipments across the globe. “In virtually all industry sectors, next-day delivery helps spur economic growth. Express is a crucial and integrated component in the functioning of European supply chains and allows European business to remain competitive at global markets. On that basis, the EEA urges European policymakers to keep promoting a further deepening of the internal market, support international trade liberalization and to be mindful of measures which could increase administrative burden or restrict express operations”, Mr. Mulders said.

47% of EU businesses indicated that their company would be very badly affected if international next-day delivery to or from their country would no longer be available. If European industry would no longer have access to next-day delivery services, 43% responded that orders could be lost, 43% would have to hold increased inventories to meet customer demand and 15% of surveyed companies stated that such a loss might force them to relocate their business. The study concluded that imposing a restriction, which would lead to next-day delivery services no longer being available in the EU, would reduce EU GDP by around €30 billion a year.

Commenting on the sector's growth, Adrian Cooper, CEO of *Oxford Economics* said: “Our research shows that, despite the economic downturn, the growth prospects of the express industry will outpace that of EU27 GDP growth. This mainly reflects the longer-term prospect of expansion of international trade and the increasing need for rapid, guaranteed delivery, particularly to emerging economies.”

Express delivery services are an integrated component of the supply chains of European businesses. Being able to respond quickly to customer demand is essential to ensure that European industry operates in optimal conditions in order to contribute to growth in an increasingly competitive global economy.

Key facts and figures from the study:

- 579,000 European jobs and over €23.4 billion of EU27 GDP are supported by the European express delivery industry.
- Around 269 million intra-EU cross-border express deliveries took place during 2010, with a wide spread in terms of country of origin and country of destination.
- Business surveys conducted for this report show that EU businesses depend on express delivery services for 16% of their sales revenues (for SMEs this figure is 15%).
- If allowed to grow in-line with demand, by 2020 the industry is estimated to directly employ a total of 300,000 people.
- 47% of EU business indicate that they would be very badly affected if next-day delivery services were no longer available to or from their country, 43% believe that orders could be lost, 43% would have to hold increased inventories and 15% suggested they might have to relocate.
- It is estimated that imposing a restriction that led to next-day delivery services no longer being available in the EU, would reduce EU GDP by around €30 billion a year.
- The European express industry connects EU member states with over 90% of the world economy within 72 hours

About the EEA:

The European Express Association (EEA) is the representative organisation for the express industry in Europe. The industry specialises in time-definite, reliable transportation services for documents, parcels, and freight. It allows European business to rely on predictable, expeditious delivery of supplies, thereby enabling them to attain and maintain global competitiveness. The express industry is a fast-growing business sector which not only provides vital services for the European economy, but which also plays a large role in making the global marketplace a reality.

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The study by *Oxford Economics* is available on our website, www.euroexpress.org.