



Valeo launches the first "Valeo Forum" on the theme "Cars and cities"

Paris, 11 March 2008 – How can the automobile be reconciled with the city? Today, over 50% of the world's population lives in urban areas and our planet is now home to more than twenty megapoles of over 10 million inhabitants. The spectacular global population explosion, together with a growing desire for individual freedom, has created a major area of concern: how to reconcile the high demand for automobiles with an environment that is increasingly urbanized.

This new situation poses a real challenge for players in the automotive industry as well as for public authorities and consumers.

Capitals around the world such as Stockholm, Singapore, London, Paris and Berlin have introduced various different measures restricting the free circulation of traffic in an attempt to ease congestion in their city centres. Other cities are working on the best way to incorporate automobiles into their development.

On Tuesday 11 March, right in the middle of the French municipal elections, Valeo is organizing the first Valeo Forum on the theme "Cars and cities", reflecting Valeo's ongoing commitment over the past few years to this issue. Valeo's aim is to contribute to the debate about the automobile's role in society, from the standpoint of an independent automotive systems specialist, resolutely engaged in the research and development of new technological solutions. The Forum will be an opportunity to contribute to the public debate so that all concerned automakers, automotive suppliers, public authorities, urban planners and users can put their heads together and discuss the best ways to tackle this new global challenge.

Valeo Forum "The automobile and the city"
Automobile Club de Paris- Place de la Concorde
Tuesday, 11 March 2008 - Debate at 7 p.m., followed by dinner.

Those taking part in the debate include: **Guy Bourgeois**, "General Manager of the French Institute for research on transport and safety", **Jean-Marie Charpentier**, architect and urban planner, **John Kassakian**, "Director of the MIT Laboratory for Electromagnetic and Electronic Systems", **Gilles Michel**, CEO of Citroën, **Patrick Oliva**, "Corporate Vice President in charge of Planning & Sustainable Development for Michelin", **Jack Short**, International Transport Forum, OECD

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