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Nearly 200 decision-makers took part in the first “enabling a better automotive world” Valeo Forum

The first “enabling a better automotive world” Valeo Forum held on March 11 at the Automobile Club de France, Place de la Concorde in Paris, was an occasion for industrialists, politicians, public authorities and researchers to debate on the theme “Cars and Cities”.

Thierry Morin, Valeo Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, brought together nearly 200 public figures involved in automotive issues and the environment to take part in *“a forum to learn, understand and communicate”* in order to overcome conflicting attitudes on *“the automobile, man's best friend or public enemy number one.”*

Eric Revel, economic editor of the French cable news channel LCI, chaired the debate in which six experts took part: **Guy Bourgeois**, General Manager of INRETS, the French Institute for Research on Transport and Safety; **Jean-Marie Charpentier**, architect and town planner; **John Kassakian**, Director of MIT's Laboratory for Electromagnetic and Electronic Systems; **Gilles Michel**, Executive Vice-President of Automobiles Citroën; **Patrick Oliva**, Corporate Vice-President in charge of Planning and Sustainable Development for Michelin, and **Jack Short**, Secretary General of the International Transport Forum, OECD.

The debate was then opened to all participants during a dinner, with discussion focusing on the complex issues surrounding cars and cities: the automobile as a synonym of freedom in emerging countries with strong growth, the development and attractiveness of cities, traffic management, the choice of fuels, interconnecting urban transport, delivery vehicle management, solutions for disabled people, etc.

Thierry Morin thanked the participants for attending and in conclusion reiterated Valeo's commitment to innovation and its aim to contribute to the public debate on the role played by the automobile in society from the standpoint of an independent automotive systems specialist. He announced that following this first successful meeting, the Forum would be held on a regular basis, based on three founding values: *“open-mindedness, a multi-disciplinary approach to respond to the diversity of expectations, and a sense of action.”*

*The **Valeo Forum** is an international event to encourage exchange and debate on the role of the automobile in society. Its mission is to foster the sharing of experience and to actively contribute to the proposal and development of new automotive solutions. The Valeo Forum acts as a meeting point for the industrial, scientific and political worlds with the community at large. Valeo invites experts from these different areas to come up with concrete solutions to automotive issues so as to encourage implementation of common measures.*

Read a summary and minutes of the debate on www.forumvaleo.com

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