



E-Flash No. 127 - 27 May 2016

ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS

1. Reminder - FIATA - 10th RAP Field Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia - 24 June 2016

The preparations for the 10th RAP Field Meeting (24 June 2016) in Jakarta, Indonesia that is traditionally held in conjunction with UNESCAP (23 June 2016) meeting are ongoing. The Meeting's agenda includes presentations and speeches from Delegates and an Indonesian Special Section with representatives from the Government of Indonesia and Industry related service providers.

The RAP Chairman Mr Chris Kanter invited with the RAP Association Members and their Members from the Region Asia Pacific to participate. The Pre-Advice of Meeting together with a preliminary agenda is published on the FIATA web-site under FIATA Meetings.

Pre-Advice & Hotel + Registration form -

http://fiata.com/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Meetings/RAP_096_PRE-ADVICE_10th_RAP_Field_Mtng_24Jun16_Jakarta.pdf

FIATA members are grateful for the support, contribution and assistance we are receiving from the Indonesian Logistics and Forwarders Association (ILFA) for their help in arranging this meeting to make it successful. For more information please send a message to the manager in charge: bloch@fiata.com.

2. FIATA ASSOCIATION MEMBERS INVITED TO Validate their training programmes at the 40th ABVT VALIDATION SESSION

The 40th Validation/Re-validation Session will take place on October 2nd 2016 within the framework of the FIATA World Congress 2016 in Dublin.

Validation sessions are conducted twice a year, at the FIATA World Congress and at the FIATA Headquarters' Session.

Interested Association Members should contact FIATA's Training and Education Manager, Ms Verena Schaer at schaer@fiata.com to get the Validation Guide and Questionnaire as well as the FIATA Minimum Standards to acquire the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding and the FIATA ABVT Rules and Procedures. The deadline for submission is July 29th 2016.

3. Successful 2016 RAME Field Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Over 400 delegates participated in this year 2016 RAME Field Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia which hosted speakers from UNCTAD, UNECA, Harvard University, port authorities and heads of private sector organisations.

The meeting was also the topic of discussion for FIATA's recently published position paper which calls for all "Calling all hands on deck to achieve one Trade Facilitation system across all African countries

to eradicate delays, bottle-necks and excessive costs". <http://fiata.com/media/press-releases/2016/17-may.html>

FIATA is grateful to the Ethiopian Freight Forwarders and Shipping Agents Association for their assistance in organising RAME in Ethiopia and look forward to many more successful field meetings to come.

4. FLA Recommends Africa Venture's Leadership Programme

The Africa Venture will develop emerging leaders from across Africa. This leadership programme will include focused, personal, privileged and generous interaction between this rising generation of leaders and former Heads of State and Government from the World Leadership Alliance-Club de Madrid. The programme will enable the transfer of knowledge, know-how and inspiration across the generations, involving some of the most inspiring leaders in the world today.

For more information visit: <http://www.fiatalearning.com/africaventure>

5. FLA Roadshows

The FLA has successfully conducted several roadshows in Dubai, Addis Adaba, Mombasa. Interest has been high and all initiatives have motivated attendees who are now looking into FLA's unique selection of learning offerings. Next roadshow takes place on May 26th in Nairobi and then June 6th in Barcelona at the Region Americas Meeting. During these sessions, FLA Mentors promote the Academy's offerings and inform stakeholders at local level about ways to grow and learn. For more information, please send a message to the manager in charge: schaer@fiata.com

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

6. Three months grace period for SOLAS enforcement

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Committee agreed that Administrations and port State control authorities should adopt a practical and pragmatic approach when verifying compliance with the requirements of SOLAS regulations, for a period of three months after 1 July 2016, with a view to:

1. Permitting packed containers that are loaded on a ship before 1 July 2016 and are transhipped on or after 1 July 2016 to be shipped to their final port of discharge without the VGM specified in SOLAS regulations
2. Providing flexibility to all the stakeholders in containerised transport to refine, if necessary procedures for documenting, communicating and sharing VGM information.

The information sheet can be downloaded from the IMO website:

<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/14-VGM.aspx>

7. Tajikistan delivers acceptance of protocol amending TRIPS agreement

Tajikistan deposited its instrument of acceptance for the 2005 protocol amending the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on 23 May 2016. Tajikistan's Ambassador, Jamshed Khamidov, presented the instrument to WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo.

To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/trip_23may16_e.htm

8. UNECE and WTO Bring Central Asia Closer to the Global Rules-Based Trading System

UNECE, WTO and the Government of Turkmenistan brought together trade negotiators, vice ministers and other high-level officials from SPECA countries - Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan - as well as their neighbour, the Islamic Republic of Iran, to discuss four key issues: WTO accession; trade facilitation in the region; ways of fostering regional trade; and how countries and development partners can plan and implement the Sustainable Development Goals related to trade.

To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/trade/2016/unece-and-wto-bring-central-asia-closer-to-the-global-rules-based-trading-system/doc.html>

9. WTO - DG Azevêdo welcomes strong support from APEC ministers for the WTO

At a meeting of APEC trade ministers in Arequipa, Peru (17-18 May), Director-General Roberto Azevêdo welcomed ministers' engagement and their determination that the WTO should keep delivering negotiated outcomes. During their session on 'supporting the multilateral trading system', APEC ministers recognized the significant outcomes agreed at the WTO's 2015 Ministerial Conference in Nairobi and expressed their desire to deliver further results in the years to come - including at the WTO's next Ministerial Conference (MC11), which will be held in 2017.

To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/dgra_19may16_e.htm

10. Australia, Singapore Set to Upgrade Trade Deal

Australia and Singapore have agreed on a series of steps to build on their 2003 trade deal, officials announced earlier this month. The measures are in the context of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) work underway between the two sides, which also involves steps to boost defence cooperation. The announcement follows up on an earlier joint declaration from 2015 on the CSP between the two countries, which committed both governments to take a series of steps to build on their economic, trade, and defence ties.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/australia-singapore-set-to-upgrade-trade-deal>

11. EU Trade Ministers Review Next Steps for US, Canada Pacts

The European Commission has confirmed plans to submit a proposal to the European Council in June for signing the 28-nation trade deal with Canada, amid continued questions over the pact's potential fate in the ratification stages.

The news came as part of a meeting of trade ministers from the EU's 28 member states. The Brussels gathering also saw ministers - meeting under the European Council - discuss next steps for the bloc's trade deals with the US, including a new sustainability impact assessment.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/eu-trade-ministers-review-next-steps-for-us-canada-pacts>

12. Africa - Approaching the CFTA services negotiations: Which way towards delivery by 2017?

The CFTA negotiations, which were launched in June 2015, will be conducted in two phases. While the first phase covers trade in goods and services, the second phase will focus on investment, intellectual property rights, and competition policy.

Since the launch of the negotiations, the AU Commission (AUC) has been undertaking capacity building seminars to enhance the knowledge and negotiating skills on trade in services among policy-makers, negotiators, and private sector representatives. From these seminars, a general consensus seemed to emerge around the idea that market access and national treatment commitments should be complemented by sectoral regulatory disciplines in order to promote trade competition.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/news/approaching-the-cfta-services-negotiations-which-way-towards>

13. Africa - SMEs in the services sector: New drivers of growth in Africa's LDCs?

As conversations about the importance of services to countries' (and especially poor countries') economies resonate throughout the world, the issue of SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) and their contribution to the services sector is often raised. Yet the scope and impact of SME-driven services in LDCs have received scant attention in formal academic literature.

Information on SMEs in the services sector in Africa is particularly patchy. However, what is evident from many policy documents, broad economic analyses, business reports, and opinion pieces is that SMEs in the African LDCs face significant hurdles when attempting to develop and market their service offerings, which can be a source of acute frustration and disillusionment, and make the prospect of business success a distant dream.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/news/smes-in-the-services-sector-new-drivers-of-growth-in-africa%E2%80%99s-ldcs>

14. APEC Trade Ministers Issue Statement in Arequipa

Trade Ministers from the APEC member economies issued a statement following their meeting in Arequipa on Wednesday on liberalizing and facilitating trade and investment to regain economic momentum and achieve their goals of prosperity for the region's people.

The statement reflects the outcomes of the 2016 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting chaired by Magali Silva Velarde-Alvarez, Peru's Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism.

To read more please visit: http://www.apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2016/0518_MRT_statement.aspx

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY

15. UNECE joins global discussion on implementing environmental dimension of SDGs

About half of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have a direct focus on the environment and there is at least one target on environmental sustainability in each SDG. How the environmental community will work to achieve the SDGs will be the overarching theme of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2), which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, last week.

To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/environment/2016/unece-joins-global-discussion-on-implementing-environmental-dimension-of-sdgs/doc.html>

16. Innovation and Public-Private Partnerships - key elements for supporting the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

How can innovation and Public-Private Partnerships contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? This will be at the centre of the debates at the session of the UNECE

Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP), from 23 to 25 May at the Palais des Nations.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 specifically calls for countries to upgrade technological capabilities and support technology development by encouraging innovation, increasing research and development and supporting a policy environment conducive to industrial diversification and increased value addition to commodities.

To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/general-unece/2016/innovation-and-public-private-partnerships-key-elements-for-supporting-the-un-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development/doc.html>

17. ITF - Transport Sector Unites to Launch Global Decarbonising Transport Project

More than 40 partners and supporting organisations (including FIATA and CLECAT) join ITF for kick-off at global summit of transport ministers. The International Transport Forum (ITF) at the OECD officially launched a major global initiative towards carbon-free transport. Transport activity currently contributes 23% of global CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels, with the share expected to rise.

The Decarbonising Transport project is supported by a wide range of stakeholders, including private sector companies, multilateral development banks, intergovernmental organisations, sector associations, NGOs and research institutions. It is anchored in the ITF's Corporate Partnership Board, the organisation's platform for discussions with the private sector.

To read more please visit: <http://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/docs/2016-05-19-decarbonising-transport.pdf>

18. UN discuss Draft Global Aviation Emissions Reduction Scheme

The 191 members of the UN International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) discussed a draft resolution to establish a global market-based measure (GMBM) to help meet the sector's goal of carbon neutral growth from 2020 during a meeting held in Montreal, Canada, from 11-13 May. Press reports have it that the meeting remained constructive, with members tabling various proposals in hopes of progress being made, despite the existence of various issues that need to be resolved.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/un-negotiators-spar-over-draft-global-aviation-emissions-reduction-scheme>