



E-Flash No. 121 - 4 March 2016

ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS

1. Registration To The Addis Ababa 2016 RAME Field Meeting May 19-22 Now Open

The Ethiopian Freight Forwarders and Shipping Agents (EFFSA) invites all delegates to this impactful conference to celebrate and network. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia-the Capital City of Africa and gateway to southern, central and western African regions from the Middle East is the host of this year's RAME.

This conference shall be a forum filled with interesting topics and discussions that shall present the challenges and opportunities of doing business in the region and in our country in particular. To register and find more information please visit: <http://www.rame2016.org/rame2016-registration>

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

2. South Africa Accepts Protocol Amending The TRIPS Agreement

South Africa 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 February 2016, becoming the fourth WTO member to do so in 2016.

Thailand (on 28 January), Mali (on 20 January) and Lesotho (on 4 January) are the other three members that have accepted the amendment this year. To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/trip_23feb16_e.htm

3. Iran And UNCTAD Cooperate In Trade-Related Issues Including WTO Accession

At the invitation of the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, Mr. Joakim Reiter, Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD, undertook an advisory mission to Tehran on 27 February 2016. The purpose of the visit was to discuss possible technical assistance and capacity building that UNCTAD could provide in the context of Iran's trade-related reforms in particular accession to the WTO.

The parties discussed and agreed to deepen collaboration through devising a road map and a task force on trade and trade-related matters. To read more please visit: [http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1204&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home;#14;#OSG;#1533;#Trade Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy](http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1204&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home;#14;#OSG;#1533;#Trade%20Negotiations%20and%20Commercial%20Diplomacy)

4. Germany To Finance UNCTAD Project On Transparent Trade In West Africa

UNCTAD's work with West African countries gains momentum thanks to German support for a new capacity-building project for Nigeria, Mali and Benin. In November 2015, UNCTAD and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), represented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, signed an Agreement whereby Germany will

provide EUR 950,000 for the project "Transparent Trade Procedures in the region of the Economic Community Of West African States"

To read more please visit:

[http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1201&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home;#510;#Trade Facilitation;#1921;#Transport Infrastructure and Services;#1721;#Transport](http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1201&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home;#510;#Trade%20Facilitation;#1921;#Transport%20Infrastructure%20and%20Services;#1721;#Transport)

5. CFTA Negotiators Establish Their Launch Pad

The first meeting of the Continental Free Trade Area Negotiating Forum (CFTA-NF) laid the groundwork for upcoming substantive negotiations on Africa's largest free trade area. Negotiators are reported to have built the procedural foundation on which the CFTA negotiations will be conducted until the CFTA's 2017 deadline during a five-day meeting that took place in Addis-Adaba, Ethiopia last week.

During the first meeting, experts discussed post-launch preparatory issues, essential process issues, and technical documents that will enable the procedure of negotiations. Studies conducted on the establishment of the CFTA were considered within the context of capacity needs and technical issues for the CFTA negotiations. To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/news/cfta-negotiators-establish-their-launch-pad>

6. APEC Meets Business And Invites Private Sector Input

Within an open and competitive market framework, the concepts of quality growth and human development support the continuity, sustainability and legitimacy of APEC's core work, and help drive the next frontier of growth in the Asia-Pacific region, said the Chair of the APEC Senior Officials during a dialogue with the private sector in San Francisco.

To read more please visit: http://www.apec.org/News/News-Releases/2016/0228_ABAC.aspx

AIRFREIGHT

7. ICAO Council Prohibits Lithium-Ion Cargo Shipments On Passenger Aircraft

The ICAO Governing Council recently adopted a new aviation safety measure which prohibits, on an interim basis, all shipments of Lithium-ion batteries as cargo on passenger aircraft.

The Council's decision will be effective 1 April, 2016. This interim prohibition will continue to be in force as separate work continues through ICAO on a new lithium battery packaging performance standard, currently expected by 2018. It pertains only to Lithium-ion batteries shipped as cargo on passenger aircraft, and not to those contained in personal electronic devices carried by passengers or crew.

To read more please visit: <http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-Council-Prohibits-Lithium-Ion-Cargo-Shipments-on-Passenger-Aircraft.aspx>

8. ICAO Technical Instructions For The Safe Transport Of Dangerous Goods By Air

We wish to remind Members that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has published their third addendum to the 2015-2016 Edition of the Technical Instructions: See this web link <http://www.icao.int/safety/dangerousgoods/pages/technical-instructions.aspx>

The document dated 15 January 2016 introduces some new provisions that were deemed as safety-critical and are applicable immediately. The changes include the assignment of special provision A210 (forbidden for carriage by air) against catecholborane and 1,3,2-benzodioxaborole,

further changes to the restrictions on the carriage of lithium batteries, and a clarification on lithium batteries in overpacks.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has posted on 16 January an addendum to their Dangerous Goods Regulations 57th Edition effective for the year 2016. The addendum that consists of some new operator and state variations is available here: <http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dgr/Documents/dgr57-addendum1-en-20160116.pdf>

9. EU Launches New Aviation Partnership With China

On Thursday, the EU and China have formally launched the [EU-China Aviation Partnership Project](#) (APP), a cooperation programme in the field of civil aviation. It will be jointly implemented by the [European Aviation Safety Agency](#) (EASA) and the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) <http://www.caac.gov.cn/en/SY/>

With a €10 million budget from the [EU Partnership Instrument](#), this five year programme will serve to increase cooperation and mutual understanding on areas such as safety and environmental protection; and to allow for better exchange of best practices and standards. For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/news/2016-02-24-aviation-partnership-china_en.htm

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY

10. UNECE: Now Is The Time For More And Smarter Infrastructure Investment

According to UNECE, road and railways, communication lines and power grids, ports and dams. these are the building blocks that bind countries and citizens together, contribute to economic cohesion and open for new economic activities. Good infrastructure is a key requirement for a dynamic economy, as shown in their new [Sustainable Development Brief](#).

But infrastructure investments are also necessary to meet social needs and environmental challenges. For example, addressing climate change will require an additional [5 per cent](#) on top of the almost \$90 trillion infrastructure investment needed just to maintain current growth to 2030. To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/blog/previous-blogs/now-is-the-time-for-more-and-smarter-infrastructure-investment.html>

11. New UN Study Points To Ways To Create Sustainable Inland Transport

Europe has managed to decouple the increase in motorization and death on roads in the last several decades, due to the strong embrace of road safety measures and their enforcement, coupled with uniform high safety regulations for cars and systematic education of drivers, according to a new study from the United Nations.

The study "[Transport for Sustainable Development - The case of Inland Transport](#)" was developed by the five Regional Commission of the UN in cooperation with key inland transport stakeholders and spearheaded by UNECE. To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/presscurrent-press-h/transport/2016/new-un-study-points-to-ways-to-create-sustainable-inland-transport/doc.html>

12. De-Carbonising Transport: ITF Launches Major New Project

According to the ITF, transport has generated over 23% of global CO2 emissions from fuel combustion in 2013. This share is set to grow as transport demand increases. Transport urgently needs to find a pathway towards providing carbon-neutral mobility. Technological progress is important but not enough.

The ITF Decarbonising Transport project will be officially inaugurated on 19 May at ITF's 2016 Summit in Leipzig, Germany. For more details please visit: <http://us11.campaign-archive1.com/?u=07ce419bce4a45060201f0565&id=f8f4e5cf6c&e=01e1b76596>

For the record, FIATA is co-organising a side event in Leipzig on May 20th in cooperation with CLECAT, the Smart Freight Centre, the ESC and IRU. More information on this event will be sent by circular letter in due course.

13. New Laws Of The Ministry Of Transport In China To Come Into Effect In 2016

The Chinese Ministry of Transport announced a plan requiring ships to use fuel with sulphur content below or equal to 0.5% when calling key ports in Yangtze River Delta. China MSA also issued a notice on Enhancing Supervision and Administration of Emissions Controlled Areas (ECA) to specify requirements for ships when calling to ports. Eleven key ports within the designated areas are allowed to apply the same requirement to ships at berth as of January 1st 2016. From January 1st 2017, the requirement will become mandatory for all ports. Starting from May 1st 2016, Provisions on the Administration of Ship Surveys (the 'Provision') will come into effect.

To read more into the details of this regulation please visit the FIATA circular published on the FIATA Members' section of the FDDS.

14. Railway Brings Trade, Tourism And Development To Yunnan

In 2003, to reduce the province's isolation and promote development, the West Yunnan Railway Company together with the Ministry of Railways and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) began construction of 167 kilometres of railways to connect the cities of Dali and Lijiang with a view to enhancing the transport connectivity of the area.

To read more please visit: <https://adb.exposure.co/railway-brings-trade-tourism-and-development-to-yunnan>