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ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS

1. ITF Side Event Announcement is out - "Business and Government for Smarter Freight"

FIATA in conjunction with CLECAT, ESC, SFC and IRU are to host a side event at the upcoming International Transport Forum in Leipzig on May 20th. This side event aims to explore opportunities for collaboration, clearly articulate how these can be realised in practice, and share real world examples.

The private sector must do the heavy lifting in realizing low carbon, efficient and competitive freight ("smart freight"). However, governments must help to overcome market and policy barriers to accelerate the uptake of solutions and innovation. Program details are available at: <http://2016.itf-oe.cd.org/business-and-government-smarter-freight>

2. New FIATA Foundation website

The new FIATA Foundation website www.fiatafoundation.com has been launched on 22 March 2016. You also find the link to this new website when visiting www.fiata.com and you click on FIATA Foundation.

On www.fiatafoundation.com you find a lot of information about past Projects like the Train-the-Trainer courses in Chile and Tanzania and many others in earlier years.

Click on Facilitators and you can meet the team of trainers that make this programme successful. Click on Donations and will see that everybody who is interested in the enhancement of capacity building in developing regions of our industry has the possibility to donate the FIATA Foundation - Vocational Training.

3. FLA presents Online Training in Diplomacy by UNITAR

The FLA recommends the Online Training in Diplomacy courses offered by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. The FLA has agreed on a discounted rate for these courses. Please contact fla@fiata.com if you are interested.

For information on the learning objectives go to this link: <http://fiatalearning.com/international-organisations>

4. Supply Chain Management Certificate Programmes starting soon!

Michigan State is ranked #1 and #2 in Supply Chain Management undergraduate and graduate programmes by U.S. News & World Report, which means the FIATA Logistics Academy is making sure you learn from the best in this rapidly growing career field.

As Supply Chain Management continues to be one of the most critical business disciplines in the manufacturing and service sectors, the demand for qualified professionals and opportunities for

career mobility are increasing. Against this background, the FLA offers a discounted rate to those interested in pursuing the Supply Chain Management Certificate Programs. Contact fla@fiata.com for more information.

5. FLA soon to start Roadshow

Because communication matters, the FLA Mentors have engaged in FLA demonstration days supported and presented by FIATA Association Members in several countries including the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia and Thailand.

FLA Mentors will provide information and offer up-to-date knowledge on the range of FLA course offerings and initiatives. Follow us on Twitter to know more: @FiataFLA

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

6. UNCTAD-stat launches two page Maritime Country Profile Page

UNCTAD-stat has launched a two-page basic "Maritime Country Profile" for almost every country in the world. With all the extensive data available from UNCTAD stat and the UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport, they have expanded the tool to more than 200 economies and territories.

For a further look please visit: <http://unctadstat.unctad.org/CountryProfile/MaritimeProfile/en-GB/004/index.html>

7. DG Azevêdo welcomes Brazil's ratification of WTO trade facilitation deal

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo is visiting Brazil this week to discuss the implementation of recent WTO agreements and the future work of the organization. During his visit to the Brazilian capital, President Dilma Rousseff presented DG Azevêdo with Brazil's formal instrument of acceptance of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/dgra_29mar16_e.htm

8. OECD - International trade statistics: trends in fourth quarter 2015

G20 total international merchandise trade, seasonally adjusted and expressed in current US dollars, continued to contract in the fourth quarter of 2015. Exports fell for the sixth consecutive quarter (by 1.6% in Q4 2015), while imports fell for the seventh consecutive quarter (by 1.9%).

Export values fell significantly in Q4 2015 across large oil exporters including Canada (by 5.4%), Russia (2.2%), Indonesia (7.9%) and Saudi Arabia, reflecting falling oil prices and an appreciating US dollar. In South Africa and Brazil, imports continued to contract (by 6.2% and 9.2% respectively) to close to their lowest levels in six years.

To read more please visit: http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/international-trade-statistics-trends-in-fourth-quarter-2015.htm?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=whatsnewtrade

9. UNECE paves the way for automated driving by updating UN international convention

A major regulatory milestone towards the deployment of automated vehicle technologies will be attained on 23 March 2016 with the entry into force of [amendments to the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic](#).

As of that date, governments will have the opportunity to allow automated driving technologies transferring driving tasks to the vehicle in conformity with the United Nations vehicle regulations.

To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/?id=42459>

10. Road Transport: EU Commission adopts common rules to facilitate enforcement and enhance road safety

The European Commission has adopted a series of rules applicable to road hauliers and road passenger transport operators. They include a common classification of serious road safety infringements under [transport legislation](#), as well as new specifications for [smart tachographs](#) (the device that records driving times of lorry, bus and coach drivers) making the best use of new digital technologies such as Galileo.

To read more please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/road/news/2016-03-18-classification-road-infringements-and-tachograph_en.htm

11. EU, Mercosur Set to Ramp Up Trade Talks, Exchange Offers in April

The EU and the South American customs bloc Mercosur are set to ramp up their negotiations for a trade agreement between them in the coming months, following a prolonged stall. Over the past few weeks, high-level officials have held a series of meetings in a bid to move the talks forward. This included a visit to the Argentine capital by Federica Mogherini, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, earlier this month, where she met with Mauricio Macri, the new Argentine president who took office late last year.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/eu-mercotur-set-to-ramp-up-trade-talks-exchange-offers-in-april>

12. EU, US Trade Chiefs Press for TTIP Advances

Speaking at the German Marshall Fund's Brussels Forum on 18 March, EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and US Trade Representative (USTR) Michael Froman both touted the advances that have been made in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) talks to date, which were launched in 2013.

As the talks continue, the months ahead are slated to be pivotal in determining whether the upcoming flurry of TTIP negotiating activity will indeed translate into a completed pact during the Obama presidency - or if this task will fall to his successor.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/eu-us-trade-chiefs-press-for-ttip-advances-despite-election-brexid-dynamic>

13. ADB - Connecting South Asia and Southeast Asia: 12 Things to Know

Historically, South Asia and Southeast Asia were isolated from one another, but increasingly leaders and business operators in both regions are seeing the benefit of greater connections, according to the ADB report, Connecting Asia: Infrastructure for Integrating South and Southeast Asia.

To read more please visit: <http://www.adb.org/news/features/connecting-south-asia-and-southeast-asia-12-things-know>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

14. WCO Update: Interconnected IT systems

In the context of the 2016 WCO Year dedicated to Digital Customs, FIATA attended since January several WCO meetings, namely the Data Model Project Team, the SAFE WG, the WCO Trade Facilitation WG, the Permanent Technical Committee and the Technical Expert Group on Air Cargo Security, in which the modernization and the development of interconnected IT systems were the main points on the agendas. The security role of Customs, also a high priority on the WCO agenda as underlined in the [Punta Cana Resolution](#) was also largely discussed.

The need for further collaboration between customs authorities and the private sector and its potential positive impacts on security, quick implementation of the WTO TFA and development of effective IT systems have regularly been raised and promoted during these meetings. Those who have interest are welcome to contact their association members in their respective countries or territories for more information through the specialised FIATA WCO reports.

15. 27th UN/CEFACT Forum - 25 - 29 April 2016, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Priorities at the Forum are include advancing current projects and domain activities, ongoing maintenance tasks (such as UN/EDIFACT Data Maintenance Requests), formulating and approving a series of new projects to be conducted within the framework of the approved programme of work, continuing liaison and cooperation activities with external organizations (governmental as well as industry and standards consortia) and advancing UN/CEFACT's current and forthcoming technical framework.

Interested members are encouraged to visit: <http://www.unece.org/27-uncefact-forum.html#/>

AIRFREIGHT

16. Cargo data is to stop danger from crossing borders

Stopping a deadly cargo from using air freight to reach its target needs a worldwide warning system, and with global standards it is close to realization. Harmonization will be key to a worldwide advanced data system for air freight to stop militants from sending the bomb to anywhere in the world. Pilot schemes in North America and Europe have been testing out the mechanics of how to send data and what information is needed to scrutinize the billions of parcels that will be sent globally every year.

To read more please visit: <http://airlines.iata.org/analysis/cargo-data-is-to-stop-danger-from-crossing-borders>

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY

17. New DSD website for stakeholders on national capacity-building

This website, which is being updated regularly, is intended to provide stakeholders a range of resources related to national capacity building on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the HLPF, including learning materials, substantive submissions from stakeholders as well as information about national capacity building activities being undertaken by DESA.

To visit the website please click: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/national-capacity-building>

18. UNECE supports Belarus in promoting innovation for sustainable development

UNECE is assisting Belarus to better align its innovation policies with national development objectives, with a particular focus on promoting innovation as a way to implement the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda. A Team of experts under the guidance of UNECE undertook a fact-finding mission in Minsk on 14-18 March 2016. Its findings will inform the publication of an Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of this country.

To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/economic-cooperation-and-integration/2016/unece-supports-belarus-in-promoting-innovation-for-sustainable-development/doc.html>

19. Governments Weigh Climate Ambition in Wake of UN Climate Pact

The 28-nation EU two weeks ago [urged](#) legislators to move quickly on laws to reduce domestic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and underlined the need to ratify the Paris Agreement on climate change - a new universal deal clinched last December - as soon as possible.

While welcomed as a positive signal by some stakeholders for timely entry into force of the deal - which requires ratification from 55 nations representing 55 percent of global emissions - countries such as France and Sweden had last month pushed for deepening the EU's target to reduce emissions by 40 percent under 1990 levels by 2030 in light of the Paris outcomes.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/governments-weigh-climate-ambition-in-wake-of-un-climate-pact>