



**E-Flash No. 128 - 10 June 2016**

## **ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS**

### **1. 2016 FIATA World Congress - Early Bird Registration closes at the end of June**

The city of Dublin, Ireland plays host to the FIATA 2016 World Congress which will attract 1,000 logistics professionals and will run from October 3rd until 8th at the multi-award winning and iconic [Convention Centre Dublin \(CCD\)](#). Ireland's industry representative body, the Irish International Freight Association (IIFA), is the local event organiser in co-operation with FIATA. Early bird ticket discounts are available for sale until 30 June 2016. For further information please see <http://fiata2016.org/register/>. You may require a visa to travel to Ireland. To easily learn about applying for visas please click the following link <http://fiata2016.org/visas/>

If you work with logistics, if you are a professional or just curious to know more, please join us in Dublin for an unforgettable experience!

### **2. Will you win a Global Freight Award this year?**

FIATA shows its support to the Global Freight Awards 2016 which aims to honour a number of high performing companies throughout the industry. We wish to remind our members that there are just two weeks left to enter the Awards and encourage them to put forth applications this week.

There are a number of awards in different categories which will be honoured. We encourage members to examine the website to find the right fit for them.

[http://globalfreightawards.com/categories/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=&utm\\_source=GB175%20informa%20Cargo\\_Infront%20IFW%20Awards&utm\\_content=GFA%20Awards%20-%20Drive%20Entries%20-%20June%202016&utm\\_campaign=GFA%20Awards%20-%20Drive%20Entries%20-%20June%202016](http://globalfreightawards.com/categories/?utm_medium=email&utm_term=&utm_source=GB175%20informa%20Cargo_Infront%20IFW%20Awards&utm_content=GFA%20Awards%20-%20Drive%20Entries%20-%20June%202016&utm_campaign=GFA%20Awards%20-%20Drive%20Entries%20-%20June%202016)

## **REGIONS**

### **3. FIATA's RAME in support of a VISA Free Africa**

For the past 30 years, Africa has attempted to address free movement. A continental strategy document was signed however never implemented. We have heard many stories of Africans and other citizens not being able to travel to a conference, business meeting or career prospects because they rightly or wrongly could not meet the visa requirements.

RAME supports a call for action by Kigali Global Shapers which has put forth a petition advocating African member states to implement free movement of people across Africa. Members interested in joining the petition are encouraged to sign on at: [https://www.change.org/p/african-union-heads-of-states-visa-free-africa?recruiter=58022443&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=share\\_twitter\\_responsive](https://www.change.org/p/african-union-heads-of-states-visa-free-africa?recruiter=58022443&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=share_twitter_responsive)

#### **4. ALACAT MEETING IN BARCELONA**

ALACAT's President, Mr Galo Molina, closed a "record congress" in Barcelona on 9th of June after three days' debates embracing the widest portfolio in logistics, airfreight, maritime, road and rail and more. FIATA was featured at the opening where DG Marco Sorgetti gave a presentation about its activities and importantly by the Chairman of the MTI, Mr Bob Keen, who delivered a preparation on the SOLAS rules for weighing of containers which was followed by a large audience of professionals with reverential attention.

The important sections debating Customs were championed by CLECAT's President and FIATA Vice President, Mr Steve Parker

To learn more about ALACAT and its activities please go to: <http://alacat.org/>

#### **5. 12th Sub-Regional SEEFF Congress, Odessa**

Hosted by Ukrzovnishtrans, the South East European Congress of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Companies in Odessa, Ukraine was clearly very successful as FIATA Senior Vice President Mr Ivan Petrov reported to FIATA. The program consisted of 4 panels on two major subjects, e.g. the position and role of South East Europe in the development of Euro-Asian transport links and information technology for trade and logistics facilitation.

Reaffirming the strong bond of this sub-region with FIATA, the reunion featured an unforgettable show dedicated to 90th anniversary of FIATA (with fireworks, opera entertainment and impressive art show) as well as 20th anniversary of SEEFF Initiative with gala dinner. A number of FIATA personalities had been invited among them the Immediate Past President Mr Francesco Parisi and the Chairman of Sustainable Logistics Mr Heiner Rogge.

A Declaration to the Governments of South East European Countries has been signed by the Presidents of FF Associations of 8 countries in the region. FIATA, CLECAT and UNECE would be informed for reference. Please contact FIATA to receive the text.

### **INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

#### **6. WTO opens online registration for the 2016 Public Forum**

Online registration for the 2016 Public Forum is now open on the WTO website: [www.wto.org/pf16](http://www.wto.org/pf16). The Forum will be held at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva from 27 to 29 September. Under the theme "Inclusive Trade", it will be an opportunity for participants to discuss how a wider range of individuals and businesses can participate in the global trading system and how WTO rules can help to ensure everyone benefits from trade.

To read more please visit: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news16\\_e/pfor\\_08jun16\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/pfor_08jun16_e.htm)

#### **7. WTO - Germany donates EUR 1 million to help developing countries participate in trade talks**

Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development has pledged EUR 1 million in a ceremony held at the WTO on 1 June 2016 to help developing countries and least-developed countries (LDCs) participate effectively in global trade negotiations. The ceremony was attended by WTO Deputy Director-General Mr Yonov Frederick Agah and Germany's Ambassador to the WTO, Mr Walter Werner.

To read more please visit: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres16\\_e/pr774\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres16_e/pr774_e.htm)

## **8. DG Azevêdo: Lack of trade finance a major obstacle for SMEs**

Speaking at the WTO, Director-General Mr Roberto Azevêdo highlighted the need to address existing gaps in the provision of trade finance, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

At a meeting of the WTO's Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance, DG Azevêdo cited the findings of the report launched by the WTO earlier this month, entitled "Trade Finance and SMEs: Bridging the gaps in provision", which takes a detailed look at this issue. The report, and its various recommendations for action, can be accessed [here](#).

To read more please visit: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news16\\_e/dgra\\_31may16\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/dgra_31may16_e.htm)

## **9. Sri Lanka ratifies Trade Facilitation Agreement**

Sri Lanka has become the latest WTO member to ratify the new Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Sri Lanka's ambassador to the WTO, Mr R.D. Susiri Kumararatne, presented his country's instrument of acceptance to Director-General Mr Roberto Azevêdo on 31 May.

The TFA will enter into force once two-thirds of the WTO membership has formally accepted the Agreement. With the acceptance by Sri Lanka, the number of TFA ratifications now stands at 81. Thus, the WTO has received three-quarters of the ratifications needed to bring the TFA into force.

To read more please visit: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news16\\_e/fac\\_31may16\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/fac_31may16_e.htm)

## **10. G-7 Leaders Warn of "Brexit" Risks to Trade, Investment Ahead of June Vote**

Leaders from the G-7 coalition of major advanced economies issued a harsh warning last week over the ramifications a "Brexit" would have on the global economy, including for trade and investment, with less than a month remaining before UK voters go to the polls.

Gathering in Ise-Shima, Japan, from 26-27 May, the group placed a strong focus on the state of the global economy, tying in areas ranging from climate and energy to the advancement of various trade liberalisation processes both in the form of regional trade deals and the WTO system.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/g-7-leaders-warn-of-brexit-risks-to-trade-investment-ahead-of-june-vote>

## **11. EU and Mexico kick off talks to re-boost trade and investment relations**

EU Commissioner for Trade Ms Cecilia Malmström met the Secretary of Economy of Mexico Mr Idefonso Guajardo Villarreal to mark the beginning of new trade and investment negotiations between the two commercial partners.

The objective of these talks is to modernise and broaden the scope of the existing 'global agreement' from 1997 to mirror other ambitious agreements that the EU and Mexico have since negotiated with other partners.

To read more please visit:

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1504&newsletter\\_id=230&utm\\_source=trade\\_newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=EU%20Trade%20&utm\\_content=EU%20and%20Mexico%20kick%20off%20talks%20to%20update%20trade%20and%20investment%20relations&lang=en](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1504&newsletter_id=230&utm_source=trade_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EU%20Trade%20&utm_content=EU%20and%20Mexico%20kick%20off%20talks%20to%20update%20trade%20and%20investment%20relations&lang=en)

## 12. EU, Japan to Aim for 2016 "Agreement in Principle" on FTA

Leaders from the EU and Japan confirmed last week that they aim to reach an "agreement in principle" this year for a bilateral trade pact, following over three years of negotiations.

The [statement](#), issued jointly by Japanese and EU leaders, as well as those from France, Germany, Italy, and the UK, comes as the negotiations enter their fourth year. The EU and Japanese economies together [account](#) for over one-third of global GDP.

## 13. World Bank - The Potential of Intra-regional Trade for South Asia

With intra-regional trade at less than 5% of total trade, South Asia is the least integrated region in the world, dwarfed by East Asia's 35% and Europe's 60%. It's 20% cheaper for India to trade with Brazil than with its neighbour Pakistan. Bangladesh's exports to India can potentially rise by 300%

Going forward, to see what South Asia can do to achieve better integration and boost its regional trade please visit: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2016/05/24/the-potential-of-intra-regional-trade-for-south-asia>

## 14. The first official freight train crosses the Gotthard tunnel

The Swiss Federal Office of Transport (FOT), Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) and the Canton of Uri have run the first official freight train through the recently inaugurated Gotthard Base Tunnel, the world's longest and deepest rail tunnel.

During this testing phase, some freight trains will already start regular commercial operations this summer. In early September, the majority of freight traffic will be diverted through the 57 km long rail tunnel and rail customers will experience full benefits of this new connection with the next planned timetable change.

To read more please visit: <http://www.think-railways.com/first-official-freight-train-crosses-gotthard-tunnel/>

## 15. ADB, India Sign \$200 Million Loan to Help Upgrade 176 Km of Jharkhand Roads

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a \$200 million loan agreement to upgrade 176 kilometers (km) of state roads in Jharkhand State that will open up new economic opportunities and improve access to services for the poor.

The financing for the Jharkhand State Roads II Project will be used to upgrade sections of four state roads to two-lane standard, and to support improvements in the design, safety, and maintenance of the network.

To read more please visit: <http://www.adb.org/news/adb-india-sign-200-million-loan-help-upgrade-176-km-jharkhand-roads>

## AIR FREIGHT

### 16. ICAO Council President: Political Will Exists to Complete Aviation's Carbon Neutral Growth Strategy

Speaking at the 72nd Annual General Meeting of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in Dublin today, ICAO Council President Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu highlighted that a key element of the

UN agency's ongoing carbon emission mitigation strategy should be adopted by its Member States at the 39th ICAO Assembly this September.

In addition to agreeing to the proposed Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), the ICAO Assembly is also expected to agree on the respective work required on behalf of ICAO, its States, and industry, in order for the scheme to be fully operational by 2020. This includes the establishment of registries, the determination of the monitoring review and verification (MRV) requirements, and emissions unit criteria (EUC).

For more information please visit: <http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-Council-President-Political-Will-Exists-to-Complete-Aviation-s-Carbon-Neutral-Growth-Strategy.aspx>

### **17. UPU and IATA set e-CSD Standards for Mail Security**

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) and IATA are stepping up to implement international security requirements for mail and cargo shipments.

According to Aviation Security set at legislative level (e.g. in the European Union) following the ICAO rules, as well as stated in IATA's Resolution 651, "All Cargo and Mail consignments intended to be carried on passenger or all-cargo aircraft shall be subject to screening to effectively detect prohibited items unless appropriate Security Controls have been applied by a Regulated Agent, a Known Consignor or Account Consignor and the Cargo and Mail consignment has been protected against any unlawful interference from the time those Security Controls have been applied until loading."

The eCSD, which had also been previously appreciated by FIATA, is a practical way of ensuring that the necessary information is made available to the concerned parties in a standard format.

For more information please visit: <http://www.iata.org/publications/tracker/may-2016/Pages/e-csd-mail-poc.aspx>

## **SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY**

### **18. 2016 UN High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council**

The 2016 high-level political forum on sustainable development will be held from Monday, 11 July, to Wednesday, 20 July 2016. The session will include voluntary reviews of 22 countries and thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, supported by reviews by the ECOSOC functional commissions and other inter-governmental bodies and forums.

The theme of the forum for 2016 is "Ensuring that no one is left behind". FIATA is planning to participate in the event and will continue to keep members updated of key outcomes. For more information please visit: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

### **19. Statement on the WTO Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) Negotiations**

Trade Ministers and senior officials from seven EGA members - Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, and the United States - met in Paris to discuss progress in the negotiations and to chart a path toward successful conclusion later this year.

This group has been working closely together with the aim of concluding an ambitious EGA with all participants ahead of when G20 Leaders meet in Hangzhou in September for the G20 Summit.

To read more please visit:

[http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1505&newsletter\\_id=230&utm\\_source=trade\\_newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=EU%20Trade%20&utm\\_content=Statement%20on%20the%20WTO%20Environmental%20Goods%20Agreement%20\(EGA\)%20Negotiations&lang=en](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1505&newsletter_id=230&utm_source=trade_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EU%20Trade%20&utm_content=Statement%20on%20the%20WTO%20Environmental%20Goods%20Agreement%20(EGA)%20Negotiations&lang=en)

## **20. UN Climate Talks in Bonn Push Forward on Paris Pact**

Officials convening in Bonn, Germany, for the first round of UN climate talks held since the conclusion of a new universal emissions-cutting deal reached in Paris, France, last December made cautious progress on sorting through a myriad of agenda items related to its operationalisation.

The 32-page Paris Agreement outlined the structure for a climate regime that will see all countries make contributions to the mitigation effort, expressed in so-called nationally determined contributions (NDCs). This also includes common transparency efforts and five-yearly global stocktakes on the progress towards achieving the agreement's long-term goals, which are intended to drive compliance.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/un-climate-talks-in-bonn-push-forward-on-paris-pact>

## **21. World Bank Group, International Partners Launch Six Principles for Dialogue on Climate Action**

The World Bank Group, along with 12 international organizations, on Tuesday launched a new initiative that will make it easier for governments, the private sector and the global community to work together to lessen the impacts of climate change and for the private sector to play a more active role in the design of policies and programs that tackle climate change.

The initiative brings together leading climate advocacy organizations around a set of six Principles for Dialogue on Climate Action, which will guide discussions at the global, local and country level as governments and their private sector partners implement plans and identify solutions to help deal with this major global crisis.

To read more please visit: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/05/24/world-bank-group-international-partners-launch-six-principles-for-dialogue-on-climate-action>

## **22. Principal UN policy forum in Asia-Pacific opens with focus on implementation of 2030 Agenda**

UNESCAP opened its 72nd session in Bangkok on 17 May with United Nations UnderSecretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Dr. Shamshad Akhtar emphasizing that strong political commitment, action and well-functioning coordination mechanisms, fully supported by the countries of Asia and the Pacific, will be critical to ensure that "no one is left behind."

To read more please visit: <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/escap-newsletter-june2016.pdf>

## **23. COP22 Low-Emissions Solutions Conference will bring together cities, government, academics and business to scale up climate solutions**

Government of Morocco, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, will present the solutions-focused conference during COP22 in November 2016

Cities, business and government will come together to scale up solutions for climate action at COP22 in Marrakesh, Morocco, following an announcement today that four leading organizations will present a

Low Emissions Solutions Conference in order to accelerate the implementation of solutions under the historic Paris Agreement.

To read more please visit: <http://unsdsn.org/news/2016/05/05/cop22-low-emissions-solutions-conference-will-bring-together-cities-government-and-business-to-scale-up-climate-solutions/>