



E-Flash No. 129 - 24 June 2016

Kindly accept our apologies for the delay in sending out this e-Flash.

ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS

1. 2016 FIATA World Congress News - Early Bird Registration closes.

The city of Dublin, Ireland plays host to the FIATA 2016 World Congress which attracts up to 1,000 delegates and will take place this year between October 3rd and 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 learn about applying for visas please click the following <http://fiata2016.org/visas/>

2. FIATA Association Members should validate 40th ABVT VALIDATION SESSION

The 40th Validation/Re-validation Session of the FIATA standard compliant training programmes will take place on October 2nd 2016 within the FIATA World Congress 2016 in Dublin. As usual, 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\(at\)fiata.com](mailto:schaer(at)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. FIATA in Support of the International Day of Peace - Youth Video Contest

The Education Outreach Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information would greatly appreciate support in mobilising youth throughout the world to submit videos for a new initiative. Young people between the ages of 15 and 24 have been invited to submit 10- to 15-second videos in English on how the Sustainable Development Goals can build peace. The most engaging videos will be featured on the United Nations International Day of Peace YouTube channel.

Videos will start appearing on the channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpLhcvaNT33Bs8ZvB4j6d8w>) from now through September 21st, the International Day of Peace. More details can be found at: <http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/pdf/Invitation%20to%20Submit%20Videos%20for%20International%20Day%20of%20Peace.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

4. DG Azevêdo welcomes efforts to boost opportunities for small businesses

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo attended a workshop today (21 June) on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), focused on enhancing their participation in international trade. The event was organised by the permanent missions of the Philippines, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and Thailand, supported by the International Trade Centre (ITC).

The discussion focused on the specific barriers that MSMEs face in the global trading system and what steps could be taken to lower those barriers.

To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/bus_21jun16_e.htm

5. Liberia to become 163rd WTO member

Liberia has notified the WTO that its Parliament has ratified its Protocol of Accession, clearing the final pathway to its WTO membership. According to WTO rules, Liberia will become a WTO member on 14th of July, 30 days after its instrument of acceptance was deposited at the WTO.

To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/acc_lbr_20jun16_e.htm

6. Madagascar joins list of WTO members ratifying the Trade Facilitation Agreement

Madagascar has joined the growing majority of WTO members that have ratified the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Mr Solofo Andrianjatovo Razafitrimo, Madagascar's Minister-Counsellor and Chargé d'Affaires in Geneva, presented his country's instrument of ratification to WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo on 20th of June.

To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/fac_21jun16_e.htm

7. SPECA countries using the UN Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide

Senior trade and Customs officials from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan (countries participating in the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia known as SPECA) received practical advice on the implementation of trade facilitation at a training workshop co-organized by UNECE and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Dushanbe. The interactive workshop aimed to give participants awareness of the tools contained in the UN Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide and how to use them.

To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/trade/2016/speca-countries-move-towards-practical-implementation-of-trade-facilitation-using-the-un-trade-facilitation-implementation-guide/doc.html>

8. WTO members share experiences on National Trade Facilitation Committees

On June 8th Experts from more than 20 countries and 5 international organisations gave presentations to representatives from more than 150 countries participating in a workshop on National Trade Facilitation Committees, in the framework of WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Guidelines have been developed by several international organisations and other donors to address states' difficulty in structuring national committees. A survey conducted by the WTO Secretariat confirmed that considerable work is being done by Members in this area. The preliminary results of this survey are available [HERE](#)

9. African countries and EU sign Economic Partnership Agreement

On 10th of June, six countries from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) - specifically, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland - signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the EU in Kasane, Botswana. Those SADC countries will now have to ratify the regional agreement before it can enter into force.

The trade deal secures access to the EU market without any duties or quotas for all members of the SADC EPA group, removing customs duties on 98.7 percent of imports from South Africa and eliminating them entirely for the other five countries.

To read more: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/news/newsroom-17>

10. African countries hold second CFTA Negotiating Forum

Representatives from the African Union's (AU) member states held the second session of the Continental Free Trade Area Negotiating Forum (CFTA-NF), continuing their work aimed at laying the foundation for the upcoming substantive negotiations. If successfully concluded, the CFTA would constitute the largest FTA in the world, covering 54 member states.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/news/african-countries-hold-second-cfta-negotiating-forum>

11. EU Commission injects €6.7 billion in transport infrastructure

The European Commission is firmly delivering on President Juncker's top priority of creating jobs and boosting growth in the European Union, by unveiling a list of 195 transport projects that will receive €6.7 billion of funding under the [Connecting Europe Facility](#) (CEF).

More at: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/news/2016-06-17-cef_en.htm

12. EU Single European Rail Area closer to completion as new provisions enter into force

The [technical provisions](#) of the Fourth Railway Package are entering into force. These are a series of measures adopted by the European Parliament and the 28 Member States to make European railways more innovative and competitive. They will in particular promote common EU rail standards and approvals with a view to establishing a deeper internal market.

To read more: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/rail/news/2016-06-15-single-european-rail-area_en.htm

13. Joint Press release on EU-Mexico negotiations of Global Agreement

Delegations of the European Union and Mexico met in Brussels on 13th and 14th of June for the first round of negotiations to update the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement (Global Agreement), which entered into force in 2000.

To read more please visit: http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2016/160614_03_en.htm?newsletter_id=230&utm_source=trade_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EU%20Trade%20&utm_content=First%20round%20of%20EU-Mexico%20negotiations%20of%20the%20Global%20Agreement&lang=en

14. Report of the first round of free trade talks between the EU and the Philippines

The first round of talks between the European Union and the Philippines took place between 23rd and 27th of May 2016 in Brussels. The objective was to lay the groundwork for a future free trade agreement between the EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

To read more please visit:

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1508&newsletter_id=230&utm_source=trade_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EU%20Trade%20&utm_content=Report%20of%20the%20first%20round%20of%20free%20trade%20talks%20between%20the%20EU%20and%20the%20Philippines&lang=en

15. Argentina welcomed as Pacific Alliance observer

Argentina is now an official observer to the Pacific Alliance, the South American bloc that includes Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru as full members. While observer countries have speaking rights, they cannot vote on Pacific Alliance decisions, and are allowed to attend the group's meetings so long as they have been invited.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/argentina-welcomed-as-pacific-alliance-observer>

16. ADB - Rebuilding Sri Lanka's Northern Roads

Roads and other infrastructure devastated by conflict in Sri Lanka's northern provinces are being rehabilitated under ADB's Northern Road Connectivity Project, helping provide a path to jobs, education and commerce for the local population.

To read more please visit: <http://www.adb.org/news/videos/rebuilding-sri-lankas-northern-roads>

AIR FREIGHT

17. EU Aviation Safety, EU air safety list registers Iranian and African progress

The European Commission updated the EU Air Safety List, the list of airlines that do not meet international safety standards, and are therefore subject to an operating ban or operational restrictions within the European Union. This complies with the EU Aviation Strategy adopted in December 2015. The EU Air Safety List, one of the Union's main instruments in aviation policy, register important improvements.

More information at: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/news/2016-06-16-air-ban_en.htm

18. New EU international agreements to benefit European passengers and businesses

The 28 EU Transport Ministers authorised the European Commission to start negotiations for EU-level aviation agreements with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Turkey, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This is one of the main deliverables of the new Aviation Strategy for Europe.

More information is available here: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/newsletters/2016/06-13/articles/aviation_mandates_en.htm

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY

19. UNCTAD - Trade and investment are key for ACP States to respond to challenges of sustainable development

UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi recently participated in the 8th ACP Summit of Heads of State and Government in Port Moresby, New Guinea. African Caribbean and Pacific group website is published here: <http://www.acp.int/>

Closer ACP collaboration is particularly apt in the case of LDCs and Small Island Developing States in addressing global challenge of climate change.

To read more please visit:

http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1264&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home;

20. European countries commit to transition to green economy and tackle air pollution

Governments of the pan-European region reconfirmed their commitment to take the lead in the transition to a green economy and committed to reduce air pollution, the largest environmental health threat in the region. These were the main conclusions of the 8th "Environment for Europe" (EfE) Ministerial Conference, held in Batumi, Georgia, from 8-10 June 2016.

To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/environment/2016/pan-european-countries-commit-to-lead-transition-to-green-economy-and-tackle-air-pollution/doc.html>

21. UNECE and China to increase cooperation on UN vehicle regulations

The 2nd international symposium on Intelligent and Connected Vehicles, held on 7th and 8th of June 2016 in Shanghai gathered representatives from various countries, international institutions and business. They discussed China's strategy for automated and connected mobility as well as current technological trends.

For more information please visit: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/transport/2016/unece-and-china-to-increase-cooperation-on-un-vehicle-regulations/doc.html>

22. 2016 UN High Level Political Forum - FIATA to attend the SDG Business Forum

The first High Level Political Forum (HLPF) since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will meet at UN HQ in New York between 11th and 20th of July to review the progress on implementation. This year, the SDG Business Forum will coincide with the high-level ministerial segment of the HLPF.

To read more please visit: <http://www.sdgbusinessforum.com/>