E-Flash

Ee-Flash 130 – July 8th

ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS

1. 2016 Logistics Performance Index – FIATA Membership Input Included

FIATA participates every year in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) survey. Our input is then utilised, among others, to publish the LPI which scores countries on their performance on logistics. This includes several elements of international trade, including border clearance efficiency, infrastructure quality, and timeliness of shipments. There are several materials now available online.

- Connecting to Compete, the report that contains the *Logistics Performance Index (LPI)*

- A press release, which discusses some of the main findings of the report

- A feature story, which highlights the top 6 findings and reflects on LPI trends

- An infographic explaining the results of the 2016 LPI

- A website where you can explore the underlying data from the LPI and build your own country-specific data visualizations

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

2. Afghanistan to become 164th WTO member on 29 July 2016

Afghanistan has notified the WTO that its Parliament has ratified its Protocol of Accession, clearing the final hurdle for its WTO membership. According to WTO rules, Afghanistan will become the 164th member of the Organisation on 29 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_afg_29jun16_e.htm

3. WTO members back talks on impact of regional trade deals on global system

A discussion on the proliferation of regional trade agreements (RTAs) and their impact on the broader global trading system has drawn support from most WTO members, the chair of the Committee on RTAs said in a meeting on 27 June.

To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/rta_27jun16_e.htm

4. Republic of Moldova ratifies Trade Facilitation Agreement

The Republic of Moldova has ratified the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Mr Octavian Calmîc, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy for the Republic of Moldova, presented his country's instrument of ratification to WTO's Director-General Roberto Azevêdo on 24 June. Madagascar, Moldova and El Salvador latest ratifications received, bringing the total number to 85.

To read more please visit: http://www.tfafacility.org/ratifications

5. UNCITRAL adopts Model Law on Secured Transactions

On 1 July the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) adopted the UNCITRAL Model Law on Secured Transactions (the "Model Law") at its session in New York.

The Model Law deals with security interests in all types of tangible and intangible movable property, such as goods, receivables, bank accounts, negotiable instruments, negotiable documents (e.g. bill of lading), non-intermediated securities and intellectual property with few exceptions, such as intermediated securities. The Model Law includes a set of Model Registry Provisions (the "Model Provisions") that can be implemented in a statute or administrative decree, or in both.

To read more please visit: http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/en/pressrels/2016/unisl233.html

6. Brazil Set to Accept ATA Carnets, "Merchandise Passports"

The United States Council for International Business (USCIB) welcomed the news that Brazil has begun accepting ATA Carnets as of June 28. ATA Carnets are international customs documents that allow goods to temporarily enter signatory countries without payment of duties and taxes. Brazil has become the 75th member to join the ATA Carnet system, which was founded in 1961 by the World Customs Organization to encourage global trade by reducing barriers caused by national customs regulations.

To read more please visit: http://www.uscib.org/brazil-set-to-accept-ata-carnets-merchandise-passports/

7. Union Customs Code: More eLearning modules and additional languages available

In order to support the implementation of the Union Customs Code (UCC) and its Delegated Act (DA) and Implementing Act (IA), which entered into force on 1 May 2016, an extensive UCC EU eLearning programme has been developed by the Commission's Taxation & Customs Union department in collaboration with a pool of customs experts from national authorities and the private sector. The programme is **addressed to** both **customs officers** and **economic operators** in the European Union. To read more please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/elearning/ucc/index_en.htm

8. Trade boosted by five years of EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement

EU exports to South Korea have increased by 55% since the trade deal between the two partners entered into force in 2011, and European companies have saved €2.8 billion in scrapped or discounted customs duties. Bilateral trade in goods between the EU and South Korea has been growing constantly since 2011, and reached a record level of over €90 billion in 2015.

To read more please visit:
http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1521&newsletter_id=230&utm_source=trade_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EU%20Trade%20&utm_content=KOREA&lang=en

REGIONAL POLICY

9. UNESCAP Database of Agreements Related to International Road Transport

A database of agreements on international road transport, developed by the UNESCAP secretariat under the project on "Harmonization of Legal Environment for Operations of International Road Transport in the ESCAP region" has been published

To view the database please visit: https://tadb.unescap.org/

10. UNESCAP Regional Study - The use of Logistics Information Systems

A UNESCAP Regional Study on "The use of Logistics Information Systems for increased efficiency and effectiveness" has been developed by the UNESCAP secretariat under the project "Inclusive and Sustainable Development through Regional Cooperation and Integration in Transport in the Asia and Pacific Region".

To view the study please visit: http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Regional%20Study%20-%20The%20use%20of%20Logistics%20Information%20Systems%20for%20increased%20efficiency%26effectiveness.pdf

11. ESCAP underlines critical role of Asia-Pacific NGOs in advancing SDGs

Education for global citizenship, with support of civil society advocacy and accountability will be instrumental in driving implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), underscored United Nations Under-Secretary-General and ESCAP Executive Secretary Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at the opening of the 66th United Nations DPI-NGO Conference in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea on 30 May.

To read more please visit: http://www.unescap.org/news/escap-highlights-critical-role-asia-pacific-ngos-advancing-sustainable-development-goals

12. Outcomes of the ESCAP 72nd Commission session

Twelve resolutions were adopted at ESCAP's 72nd Commission in May, the first session since the adoption of the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thus the Commission's actions focused on fostering regional cooperation and partnerships towards implementing the new global pathway for sustainable development, including a focus on science, technology and innovation, and climate change issues.

To read more please visit:
http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/ESCAP%20Newsletter%20July%20edition.pdf

13. EC prohibits and bans export and import and transfer of Torture Goods

A ban on torture and ill-treatment is enshrined in United Nations conventions on human rights. At the end of June 2016, the EU's Permanent Representatives Committee approved, on behalf of the Council, an agreement with the European Parliament concerning goods that can be used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The new Regulation 1236/2005 once approved by the European Parliament in September 2016 bans the export**,** import and transit of equipment/goods and prohibits the transit of goods and, if the transporter knows that the goods can, may or will be used for torture or capital punishment, applicable as per its annexes II, III & IIIA.

For more detailed information, please consult the EU press release:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/06/30-torture-goods/

14. EU removes customs duties on IT equipment

On 1 July the EU expanded its duty-free treatment to new IT products covered by the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) revised in December 2016. The agreement should eliminate custom duties on more than 200 IT products in 54 countries of the world, which represents around 90% of the global trade in such products.

To read more:
http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1522&newsletter_id=230&utm_source=trade_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EU%20Trade%20&utm_content=WTO&lang=en

15. Mercosur - EU joint communiqué

As announced in Brussels on 11 May, MERCOSUR and the European Union held a meeting on 22 and 23 June to take stock of the negotiation and to prepare for the resumption of negotiating rounds in the second semester of the year.

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1516&newsletter_id=230&utm_source=trade_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EU%20Trade%20&utm_content=MERCOSUR&lang=en

16. Latin America data is key to better road safety

Ten Latin American nations are participating in the project: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, and Uruguay. A methodological framework has already been developed. Preliminary analyses were presented at a workshop in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 16-20 May. In Rio, ITF also held bilateral meetings with country representatives to better understand the national data and the specific policy context.

To read more about ITF's road safety please visit: http://www.itf-oecd.org/documents/road/11?f%5B0%5D=field_theme_tax%3A1&f%5B1%5D=field_category_tax%3A11

AIR FREIGHT

17. Partnership and Investment Crucial to Sustainable Aviation Development in Africa

"I am a firm believer in partnerships, and Africa is one of aviation's greatest examples today of what cooperation and commitment can deliver in terms of concrete civil aviation progress," ICAO's Secretary General, Dr Liu highlighted.

During Dr Liu's courtesy call to President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, the Head of State of Equatorial Guinea pledged to make a financial contribution of $200,000 to the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) for the African civil aviation sector.

More information at: http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-Secretary-General-Partnership-and-Investment-Crucial-to-Sustainable-Aviation-Development-in-Africa.aspx

18. Stored wide body freighter payload capacity

The run up in parked wide body freighter payload capacity was initially driven by rising fuel prices, the largest cost item for all-cargo operations. As fuel prices rose from about $75 in Q1 2007 to USD $150 per barrel of jet fuel in Q2 2008, airlines took less fuel efficient aircraft out of service leading to an increase of payload capacity held in storage from about 8,500 to 13,500 tonnes.

The share of wide body freighter payload capacity peaked at 28% of in-service payload capacity in 2Q 2009 when airlines rushed to park their freighters as world trade collapsed. More information at: http://www.iata.org/publications/tracker/jun-2016/Pages/widebody-freighter.aspx

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY

19. The Panama Canal's unexpected winners

The Panama Canal can accommodate much bigger ships: monsters able to carry more than 13,000 containers, whereas previously the biggest vessels the canal could accommodate could carry "only" 5,000 of them. And, quite fittingly, a massive Chinese container ship was the first to use the new 77 km (48 mile) lane on its way to the USA, symbolically linking the canal's two biggest users.

But before the expansion some 14,000 ships - connecting some 1,700 ports in 160 different nations - crossed the canal every year, moving a little more than 3% of all global trade.And now, it has double the capacity.

To read more please visit: http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-36676196

20. ITF - Decarbonising Transport project gathers international momentum

Following the official launch of ITF's Decarbonising Transport project with more than 40 partners and supporters during the 2016 Summit of Transport Ministers in Leipzig on 19 May, the DT project was prominently highlighted at the first-ever Technical Expert Meeting on transport organised by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the UNFCCC's headquarters in Bonn, Germany on 23 May.

On 5 July, the Decarbonising Transport project will be presented to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), an intergovernmental institution bringing together 43 countries of the region, in Barcelona, Spain. To read more please visit: http://www.itf-oecd.org/decarbonising-transport

21. ICAO and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

ICAO's current Strategic Objectives are strongly linked to 13 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed. The Organisation is fully committed to work in close cooperation with States and other UN Bodies to support related targets, and is supporting these goals as an official observer on the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

More information at: http://www.icao.int/about-icao/aviation-development/Pages/SDG.aspx

22. Debriefing on UNEA-2 and the Batumi Ministerial Conference

The linkages between UNECE's and UNEP's environmental processes were one of the key topics discussed on 29 June at the debriefing on UNEA-2 and the Batumi Ministerial Conference convened by the Geneva Environment Network (GEN) for Geneva missions.

For more information please visit:
http://www.hsolutions.ch/hosting/hnewsletter/unece?action=visit&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org%2F%3Fq%3Den%2Fevents%2Funea-2-and-batumi-ministerial-conference-debriefing&iv=9822ad82196936b0825c3a1d8edaae463bfa829d6d4936d0841c63cbd65e5216&en=3a86b97bb919b60bd9a83cd761972db2ccd6

23. ADB - $500 Million ADB Loan To Help India Build Its Longest River Bridge

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a $500 million loan to build a bridge across India's Ganges River. The 9.8 kilometre (km) road bridge in the north-eastern state of Bihar will be India's longest river bridge and will provide vital transport links between the northern and southern parts of the state and with neighbouring Nepal.

To read more please visit: http://www.adb.org/news/500-million-adb-loan-help-india-build-its-longest-river-bridge

24. AIIB Holds First Annual Meeting, Green-lights Projects

The four projects announced this weekend included one solely financed by the AIIB, along with three that are being jointly financed with other institutions, with these totalling US$509 million.

The AIIB is pairing up with the EBRD on fixing roads in Tajikistan, while it will work with the ADB and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID)to build highways in Pakistan. The fourth project, focusing on improving slums in Indonesia, is a partnership with the World Bank.

To read more please visit: http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/aiib-holds-first-annual-meeting-green-lights-projects

25. First Electric Highway Opens in Sweden

Siemens AG, based in Germany, opened the world's first eHighway on June 22 in Sweden, which will use overhead centenary wires to power diesel trucks as a green alternative to traditional diesel fuel.

For the next two years, two diesel trucks will test the 2-kilometer stretch, or 1.25 miles, north of Stockholm. Scania AB, based in Sweden, manufactured the two hybrid diesels and adapted them to operate under the centenary system.

To read more please visit:
http://www.ttnews.com/articles/basetemplate.aspx?storyid=42364&utm_source=technology&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=newsletter