



e-Flash No. 134 - 16 September 2016

ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS

1. Less than a Month for 2016 FIATA World Congress's Opening in Dublin

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 from October 3 - 8 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.

The event anticipates more interactive sessions, an array of high level panellists and a range of exciting topics. 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/>

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

2. FIATA, WCO and many others participates in the 5th International Single Window Conference and Exhibition in Morocco

The agenda of the Conference was organised around the theme "Virtual Single Window of foreign trade: The requirement of an inclusive collaboration", and included topics very relevant for Customs, such as economic development, competitiveness, business climate, trade facilitation and international trade.

FIATA was represented by its Advisory Body Information Technology Chair who participated in a round table discussion on Single Window: threats or opportunities for intermediary business specifically freight forwarders. For more information please visit: <http://www.conferencesw.org/>

3. US CBP and the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (TFTEA)

The Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (TFTEA) was signed into law P.L. 114-125 on February 24, 2016. It is the first comprehensive authorisation of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) since the Department of Homeland Security was created in 2003, with the overall objective to ensure a fair and competitive trade environment.

[Learn more](#) about the key objectives of TFTEA and how the legislation authorises and enables CBP's enhanced trade facilitation and trade enforcement efforts. For more details please visit: <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/trade-enforcement/tftea>

4. Memorandum of Understanding Signed between the National Railway Administration of China and the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail

The terms of this cooperation are part of China's major "Belt and Road" project. The development and improvement of rail transport between Asia and Europe are key elements in reviving the Silk Road network to the benefit of all the countries concerned.

The MoU marks the beginning of cooperation between China and OTIF. It is an expression of China's interest in OTIF's legal and technical tools. It also signals China's willingness to examine the possibility of perhaps acceding to OTIF.

To read more please visit:

http://www.otif.org/fileadmin/user_upload/otif_verlinkte_files/08_Presse/Com_Presse/CP_2016/News_12.7.2016_China_OTIF_EN.pdf

5. TTIP: Political Support in Europe Wavers Ahead of Bratislava Meet

The 23rd September meeting in the Slovakian capital city is thus expected to see a heated debate among the bloc's trade ministers, with the result potentially meaning either renewed support to go ahead, revised instructions on next steps, or even asking the Commission to place the talks on hold entirely.

Over the last several months, leaders and key negotiators have said that their objective is to conclude the talks by the end of 2016, given that Obama's second and final term in office ends in January 2017.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/ttip-political-support-in-europe-wavers-ahead-of-bratislava-meet>

6. UK & Australia Begin Scoping Future Trade Deal Options

Speaking in Hangzhou, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull referred to the 23rd June referendum in the UK in favour of leaving the European Union as a "momentous and historic choice." Both Turnbull and his UK counterpart, newly-minted Prime Minister Theresa May, referred to discussions they had held over a future free trade arrangement as a natural step, given their shared history.

The EU ranked as Australia's third largest trading partner in 2015, while Australia was the EU's 20th largest trading partner in goods, according to the [European Commission](#). To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/uk-australia-begin-scoping-future-trade-deal-options>

7. Kenya and Rwanda Sign Regional Economic Partnership Agreement

Kenya, Rwanda, the EU Council Presidency and the European Commission signed the Economic Partnership Agreement between the East African Community and the EU. EU Member States already signed this EPA after approving it in June. The signature process is ongoing with signatures from Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania still to be completed.

To read more please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/trade/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=34138&newsletter=230

8. EPA EU - CÔTE D'IVOIRE: Provisional Application

The Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Côte d'Ivoire entered into provisional application on 3rd September 2016 following ratification by the Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire on 12 August 2016 and notification to the Council of the European Union. The agreement was approved by

the European Parliament on 25 March 2009. This trade and development agreement was negotiated as a 'stepping stone' towards the conclusion of a regional EPA with West Africa.

To read more: http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/trade/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=34137&newsletter=230

9. Peru Accepts TRIPS Amendment for Poor Countries' Access to Affordable Medicines

Peru deposited its instrument of acceptance for the 2005 protocol amending the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on 13 September 2016. Over 63 per cent of WTO members have submitted their instruments of acceptance for the TRIPS protocol. The protocol will enter into force once two-thirds of the WTO membership has formally accepted it.

To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/trip_13sep16_e.htm

10. Trade Agreements should mainstream Human Rights - UN Expert urges

A United Nations independent expert called on States and Parliaments to ensure that all future trade agreements stipulate the primacy of human rights and to align existing treaties with the duty of States to fulfil binding human rights treaties and meet environmental and health goals.

To read more please visit: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54903#.V9hiaNJ97IU>

11. Global Trade Finance Gap Reaches \$1.6 Trillion, SMEs Hardest Hit - ADB

The inability of financial institutions to provide \$1.6 trillion in support to buyers and sellers of goods across countries resulted in forgone growth and job creation in 2015, according to an Asian Development Bank (ADB) Brief. Developing Asia's share of the global trade finance gap was \$692 billion, including India and the People's Republic of China.

To read more please visit: <https://www.adb.org/news/global-trade-finance-gap-reaches-16-trillion-smes-hardest-hit-adb>

AIR FREIGHT

12. ICAO Council President discusses African Civil Aviation Priorities

With respect to Africa's more continent-wide challenges, President Aliu positively acknowledged the on-going collaboration between ICAO and the African Union Commission for the development of aviation airport and air navigation infrastructure. The Council President reiterated the need to support the sector by strengthening the autonomy of the national Civil Aviation Authority and to ensure attainment of regional aviation targets for safety and security. It is worth mentioning that FIATA had published several public [statements](#) in support of opening the airfreight market in Africa

To read more please visit: <http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-Council-President-discusses-African-civil-aviation-priorities.aspx>

13. ICAO - Compliance Critical to Sustainable Development

Sustainable aviation is predicated on compliance with ICAO standards and recommended practices (SARPs), including throughout periods of intense growth such as that forecast for the Middle East. The Secretary General also met with HE Mr Jassim Saif Ahmed Al Sulaiti, Qatari Minister of Transport and Communication, who highlighted his country's prioritisation of civil aviation within its national

developmental plan, its commitment to sustainability, and its consequential financial and human resourcing of the sector.

FIATA had expressed its views on these issues earlier this year in an [open letter](#) to ICAO's Secretary General. To read more please visit: <http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-compliance-critical-to-sustainable-development.aspx>

14. ICAO - Account Consignors, Security Controls for Air Cargo and Mail in Future

The ICAO Council agreed with the recommendations of AVSECP that Account Consignors and other consignors not subject to approval by the Appropriate Authority for aviation security should be phased out within a five-year period and at the latest by 30 June 2021. States are strongly encouraged to proscribe the designation of any new Account Consignors during this five-year transition period. States should take immediate steps to inform all national entities involved in the transport of air cargo, particularly Regulated Agents and airlines, of this impending change. A mid-term review will be carried out by the ICAO Secretariat to assess progress.

To read more please download the bulletin at: <https://box.icao.int/link/5SYZ5JIHNeGXtbMtzzbX7G>

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY

15. Climate Governance in Focus as Key UN Meetings Approach

The world's two largest greenhouse gas emitters [have ratified](#) the Paris Agreement on climate change, bringing the landmark deal significantly closer to entering into force. The news of the US-China effort comes ahead of a series of meetings by different UN bodies over the coming months, all aiming to bring various climate-related processes across the finish line.

One of the areas not covered under the Paris climate accord involved emissions from civil aviation, a topic that is normally dealt with by a separate UN body that is also holding high-level meetings this autumn. (ICAO), and is due to convene its triennial Assembly from 27 September - 7 October. Among its agenda topics are negotiations for a global, market-based mechanism on aviation emissions, which were launched at the last ICAO Assembly in 2013.

To read more please visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/climate-governance-in-focus-as-key-un-meetings-approach>

16. African Ambassadors Meet in Preparation for COP22

The African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa held a meeting in Rabat, in partnership with the COP22 Steering Committee, for information session for African Ambassadors based in Morocco, in preparation for the upcoming Climate Change Conference.

The meeting aimed to present the stakes for Africa at COP22, to prepare countries' participation and to support existing efforts to coordinate the African participation at COP22. To read more please visit: <http://www.uneca.org/stories/african-ambassadors-meet-preparation-cop22>

17. UNFCCC - Brazil Ratifies Paris Agreement to Reduce Greenhouse Gases

The Brazilian government on Sept 12th ratified its participation in the Paris Agreement on climate change, a significant step by Latin America's largest emitter of greenhouse gases that could spur other countries to move forward.

With a landmass a little bit larger than the continental United States, Brazil emits about 2.5 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide and other polluting gases, according to United Nations data.

More at: <http://www.ndtv.com/world-news/brazil-ratifies-paris-agreement-to-reduce-greenhouse-gases-1457932>

18. UNFCCC - India, Canada Agree to Combat Climate Change according to Paris Pact

A joint statement issued by India and Canada said that while both nations recognise the significant scope and wide-ranging potential for cooperation in the field of energy cooperation between governments, the private sector, research organisations and regulators, both nations also agreed to explore ways to further strengthen the institutional framework for this cooperation. Canada and India are among the 21 Mission Innovation partners that have committed to doubling government investments in clean technology research and development and to stimulating private sector investment in clean technology over the next five years.

More information at: http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-canada-agree-to-combat-climate-change-according-to-paris-pact-116091200338_1.html