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## **ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS**

### **1. FIATA participates in SME driven WTO Public Forum**

The main act at this year's WTO public forum is Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs). The rise of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools has provided immense opportunities for SMEs to showcase their products in international markets.

It was noted by all speakers on the opening panel that SMEs faced difficulties in securing financing for trade, which limited their ability to export their product and grow their business. The strict lending requirements of financial institutions towards SMEs across local industries needing to trade is felt by the freight forwarding and logistics firms which experiences delays and trade slowdowns.

To read more please visit: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news16\\_e/pfor\\_27sep16\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/pfor_27sep16_e.htm)

## **INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

### **2. UN General Assembly - Ghana and New Zealand highlight Importance of Trade**

What Africa needs is not development assistance from developed countries but "a fair chance" to trade with the rest of the world, the President of Ghana told the United Nations General Assembly. He said that raising intra-African trade alone of 15 per cent will create better opportunities for Africa's youth.

In addition, the Prime Minister of New Zealand called on the World Trade Organization (WTO) "to do more to set global trade rules". Underlining that sustainable economic development, a key driver of global growth, prosperity and stability, requires a fair, rules-based trading system, more open trade and the removal of trade barriers

To read more about Ghana please visit: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54999#.V-uMwNJ97cs>

To read more about New Zealand please visit: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54994#.V-uND9J97cs>

### **3. UNCTAD - Trade can help fix Migrant Crisis**

Ahead of the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, UNCTAD Secretary-General, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, says that although trade has lifted billions out of poverty, the migrant crisis reminds us that we still have lots of work to do. More international efforts to combat extreme poverty and create jobs in these countries will go a long way to a sustainable solution. This should include more attention to

facilitating trade and investment links with these countries, and empowering their young people, small businesses and entrepreneurs.

To read more please visit:

[http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1325&Sitemap\\_x0020\\_Taxonomy=International%20Trade%20and%20Commodities;#20;](http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1325&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=International%20Trade%20and%20Commodities;#20;)

#### **4. WCO and UNCTAD jointly for Ghana's National Trade Facilitation Committee**

From 29th of August to 1st of September, the WCO and UNCTAD carried out a joint capacity-building workshop benefiting 37 representatives of the Ghana's NTFC, including 18 women. The present mission is the logical follow-up of the previous workshops held in Ghana held in January and May 2016. The workshop focused on concepts related to the global supply chain, trade facilitation programme, indicators, donor engagement as well as the Revised Kyoto Convention and its importance in relation to the implementation of the WTO TFA.

To read more please visit: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2016/september/wco-and-unctad-provide-joint-support-to-ghana.aspx>

#### **5. 1st WCO Working Group on e-Commerce gets down to Business**

More than 175 delegates joined FIATA in attending the 1st meeting of the WCO Working Group on eCommerce. New revenue collection models which would allow all duties and taxes to be collected more efficiently were discussed, also touching on the de-minimis threshold for duties and taxes, as powerfully advocated by the numerous express industry presence.

The WCO presented the preliminary results on the survey it carried out to collect current practices and ongoing and/or future initiatives on cross-border low-value e-commerce. The survey highlights the lack of harmonization in the low-value shipment process, the need for digitalisation of processes, the need for innovative solutions to be developed in order to capture better information from importers and e-commerce intermediaries in particular, to enable better risk assessment.

FIATA published its views on de-minimis in 2014:

[http://fiata.com/fileadmin/user\\_upload/documents/Position\\_Papers/FIATA\\_Position\\_Paper\\_De\\_Minimis\\_date\\_15\\_Oct14\\_IST.pdf](http://fiata.com/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Position_Papers/FIATA_Position_Paper_De_Minimis_date_15_Oct14_IST.pdf)

To read more: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2016/september/1st-wco-working-group-on-e-commerce-gets-down-to-business.aspx>

#### **6. Bangladesh ratifies Trade Facilitation Agreement**

Bangladesh has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement, becoming the 94th member of the WTO and 12th least developed country (LDC) to do so. Bangladeshi WTO ambassador Shameem Ahsan submitted his country's instrument of acceptance to WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo on 27th of September.

For the first time in WTO history, the requirement to implement the Agreement was directly linked to the capacity of the country to do so. To read more please visit: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news16\\_e/fac\\_27sep16\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news16_e/fac_27sep16_e.htm)

## **7. EU plans Digital Trade Control Tool for Dual-use Goods**

The EU Commission revealed its plans to modify the strategic good control instruments that are in force within the Union. If you wish to get more information on this crucial sector of trade, please consult: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-3190\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3190_en.htm)

## **8. Africa is not risky for Infrastructure Investment, says ECA's Executive Secretary**

Stressing that Africa is not risky for investment in transboundary infrastructure, ECA's Executive Secretary, Carlos Lopes, said on Monday in New York that the quest for regional integration in Africa made trade and transboundary infrastructure critical and called on sovereign wealth funds to support African development by investing in sustainable infrastructure which, he said, is the growth story of the future.

Launching ECA and NEPAD Agency's publication, "16: Infrastructure projects for African integration" at the NASDAQ Stock Exchange, Lopes said the 16 infrastructure projects profiled in the publication were selected by African heads of state based on the priorities of the continent and their potential impact for regional integration.

To read more please visit: <http://www.uneca.org/stories/africa-not-risky-infrastructure-investment-says-eca%E2%80%99s-lopes>

## **9. BASCAP: Intermediaries' Role in Protection from Counterfeiting and Piracy**

The International Chamber of Commerce's (ICC) Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (BASCAP) joined the International Trademark Association (INTA) on 21st September in Beijing to host the third global workshop under the theme 'Intermediaries and Rights Holders - Working Together to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy'.

In the face of growing levels of counterfeiting and piracy in Asia and China, the Beijing meeting targeted measures that intermediaries can adopt to better protect their supply chains from the infiltration of fake products.

To read more please visit: <http://www.iccwbo.org/News/Articles/2016/BASCAP-Intermediaries-play-crucial-role-to-protect-supply-chains-from-counterfeiting-and-piracy/>

## **10. CETA: Statement by the EU Trade Commissioner and Canada's Minister for Trade**

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the European Union and Canada is a progressive agreement that will set a new standard for international trade. It includes ambitious commitments that will benefit both societies and economies and reflects the shared values of Canada and the EU, state both ministers.

Signing the agreement this fall and implementing it in early 2017 remains the collective goal. To read more please visit: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1541&title=CETA-statement-by-the-European-Commissioner-for-Trade-and-Canadas-Minister-of-International-Trade>

## TRADE FACILITATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING

### 11. AfDB approves Millionaire Trade Facilitation Loan

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) approved in Abidjan on September 21st, 2016, a US\$ 310 million trade finance loan for Ecobank Transnational Incorporated, parent company of the Ecobank Group. Through this facility the AfDB will provide critical trade finance funding to support economies in which Ecobank is present.

The project will help address critical market demand for trade finance and dollar liquidity by supporting vital economic sectors such as agri-business, chemicals, construction, engineering, food processing, manufacturing and non-traditional exports.

To read more please visit: <http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/afdb-approves-us-310-million-trade-facilitation-loan-for-ecobank-transnational-incorporated-16148/>

### 12. NEPAD to host Meeting on Abidjan-Lagos and other West African Corridors

NEPAD Regional Integration and Trade Department has convened a two-day meeting on September 27th - 28th, at the African Development Bank (AfDB) headquarters in Abidjan, with development partners, the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), government officials and representatives of Customs and revenue authorities to discuss a more coordinated approach to the management of West African corridors.

To read more please visit: <http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/nepad-regional-integration-and-trade-department-to-host-key-stakeholders-coordination-meeting-on-abidjan-lagos-and-other-west-african-corridors-16129/>

### 13. \$1.5 Billion ADB Rail Project will Develop Southeast Bangladesh

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$1.5 billion to Bangladesh to build a dual-gauge railway line that will bring key trade and tourism to the southernmost parts of Bangladesh. The new railway, part of the Trans-Asia Railway network, will also improve access to Myanmar and beyond.

The Trans-Asia Railway - an initiative led by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific - aims to provide seamless rail links between Asia and Europe to better connect people and markets.

To read more please visit: <https://www.adb.org/news/15-billion-adb-rail-project-will-develop-southeast-bangladesh>

## AIR FREIGHT

### 14. Multiple Partnerships Agreements realised at ICAO 2016 World Aviation Forum

The second ICAO World Aviation Forum concluded on numerous positive notes at the UN aviation agency's Montréal Headquarters, where FIATA was in the attendance. The high-level participants reaffirmed the critical importance of safe, secure and efficient air transport operations to the sustainable

socio-economic development of cities, States, and regions, while exploring new means of creating momentum for greater cooperation to optimise these benefits.

They also agreed to work together to significantly boost the current 4.2% of annual Official Development Assistance (ODA) financing presently earmarked for air transport development globally.

In addition to the expected agreement on the aviation MBM (see below), governments at the 39th Assembly are also expected to endorse new amendments to ICAO's global strategic plans for aviation safety and air navigation efficiency, as well as recommend that ICAO now develop similar global plans for aviation security and facilitation and air transport economic development

Earlier in the year FIATA had submitted its views to ICAO's SG, with this open letter: [http://fiata.com/fileadmin/user\\_upload/documents/Position\\_Papers/FIATA\\_responds\\_to\\_ICAO\\_s\\_Secretary\\_General\\_-\\_Trends\\_development\\_and\\_challenges\\_facing\\_the\\_airfreight\\_industry.pdf](http://fiata.com/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Position_Papers/FIATA_responds_to_ICAO_s_Secretary_General_-_Trends_development_and_challenges_facing_the_airfreight_industry.pdf)

To read more please visit: <http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-concludes-highly-successful-2016-World-Aviation-Forum.aspx>

### **15. Agreement on International Aviation Emissions expected at 39th ICAO Assembly**

One of the most ambitious events of its kind in ICAO's over seven decades of managing global air transport cooperation and progress, the 39th Assembly, which runs through 7th of October, is expected to adopt the first ever global market-based measure (MBM) by any industry sector covering CO2 emissions from international activity.

To read more please visit: <http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/Landmark-agreement-on-international-aviation-emissions.aspx>

### **16. Further Cooperation on Aviation Security Essential, ICAO SG at UN Security Council**

The ICAO Secretary General made a briefing to the UN Security Council upon the invitation of its President. "Under ICAO's new Global Aviation Security Plan, states, regions, industry and other stakeholders will be unified through a strategic framework that offers clarity on priorities for aviation security enhancement," Dr Liu remarked at UN Security Council, noting ICAO's invaluable support in achieving aviation security objectives, and in effectively contributing to the UN Security Council resolutions as well as the UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy.

On that same day, the Security Council unanimously adopted Res 2309 [on countering terrorist threats to civil aviation](#).

To read more please visit: <http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-SG-declares-at-UN-Security-Council.aspx>

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

### **17. 28th UN/CEFACT Forum - supporting Trade Facilitation**

160 experts from over 40 countries and organisations in Africa, America, Asia and Europe are gathering this week in Bangkok for the 28th UN/CEFACT Forum (26th - 30th of September) to develop recommendations, standards and other instruments to support trade facilitation.

Some of the key expected outcomes are:

- UNECE Recommendation on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in Trade Facilitation;
- Launching of a new UN/CEFACT project on core operational aspects of Single Windows;
- Final draft of UN/CEFACT standard for traceability of agricultural products, including animal and plant fibres;
- Completion of the project that produced the **Verified Gross Mass (VERMAS) message** that allows the transmission of the weight and related details of a packed container.

To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/trade/2016/28th-uncefact-forum-supporting-trade-facilitation/doc.html>

### **18. UN/CEFACT opening of the Public Review for Single Window Interoperability (SWI)**

UN/CEFACT announced the opening of the Public Review period for Recommendation 36 - Single Window Interoperability (SWI). The new recommendation covers the mechanism required for the interconnectivity of two or more Single Window facilities. The recommendation also addresses the need for cross-border trade information exchange which requires the exchange of data/information beyond the National Single Window, i.e. across their border.

The 60-day Public Review period will end on November 20th 2016. The Public Draft text and the comment template are available on [the CUE website](#). FIATA welcomes receiving comments to be submitted FIATA's ABIT manager at [eid@fiata.com](mailto:eid@fiata.com).

To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/cefact/>

### **19. UN/CEFACT launching new Single Window Project on principles for Single Windows**

UN/CEFACT announced the launching of a new [Single Window recommendation project on core principles for the operation of Single Windows](#). While they are increasingly integrated, interdependent with many vital systems and concentrating vital regulatory services, safe and efficient single window systems are critical to the effective functioning and the competitiveness of the economy.

The group will officially begin during the [28th UN/CEFACT Forum in Bangkok with a Mini Conference on Wednesday 28 September](#).

### **20. UNCTAD - Technology opens New Opportunity: prepare for Disruption**

With global growth now in its sixth flat year, many political leaders - including those that gathered for the G20 Summit in Hangzhou earlier this month - are looking to technology to create jobs and other economic opportunities.

Opportunities include the opening of new markets. The market for the internet of things, for example, those objects and devices used in daily life, is expected to rise to \$1.7 trillion in 2020 and to as much as \$11.1 trillion by 2025, according to the UNCTAD foresight report. In 2015, it was valued at \$655.8 billion.

To read more please visit:

[http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1335&Sitemap\\_x0020\\_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home;#1450;#Technology and Logistics;#1629;#Commission on Science and Technology for Development](http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1335&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home;#1450;#Technology and Logistics;#1629;#Commission on Science and Technology for Development)

## **SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY**

### **21. UN's 1st Global Conference on Sustainable Transport to be held in Turkmenistan**

Recognising the fundamental role of sustainable transport in fighting climate change and achieving the sustainable future we want, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon will convene the first ever global conference on sustainable transport, on 26th and 27th of November 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The conference will build on the intergovernmental discussions on sustainable transport. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in 2012, stresses that transportation and mobility are central to sustainable development.

To read more please visit: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/Global-Sustainable-Transport-Conference-2016>

### **22. World leaders on 2030 Agenda, Climate Action at UN General Assembly's**

In [closing remarks](#), speaking on behalf of Peter Thomson, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, one of the 193-member body's Vice-Presidents, Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Ambassador of Nepal, said he was encouraged by the fact that many UN Member States have already embedded the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their national plans and policies. To read more please visit: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55131#.V-uNctJ97cs>

### **23. ICAO and the EU renew Environmental Partnership**

On the eve of the 39th Assembly, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the European Union have signed a declaration of intent renewing their partnership to address climate change. The cooperation was initiated in 2013 and supported a 6.5-million-euro capacity-building and assistance project implemented in 14 selected States in Africa and in the Caribbean. Each state has successfully submitted an action plan on CO2 emissions reduction activities to ICAO, with a total of 218 CO2 mitigation measures having been identified and now commencing implementation.

To read more please visit: <http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-and-the-European-Union-renew-environmental-partnership.aspx>

### **24. ECA to host fourth inter-agency and expert group meeting on SDG indicators**

The Economic Commission for Africa will next month host the fourth [Inter-Agency and expert group meeting on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators \(IAEG-SDGs\)](#).

The objectives of the meeting are to finalise the initial tier system for indicators, establish a process for the refinement of indicators, review work plans for Tier III indicators, discuss options for indicators that

do not have a proposed custodian agency and review data flows from national to regional and global level and discuss best practices for the delivery of these data.

More at: <http://www.uneca.org/stories/eca-host-fourth-inter-agency-and-expert-group-meeting-sdg-indicators>

## **25. OECD - Carbon Pricing Efforts falling short, Collective Action make for Progress**

Current carbon prices are falling short of the levels needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change, but even moderate price increases could have a significant impact, according to new OECD research.

[Effective Carbon Rates: Pricing CO2 through taxes and emissions trading systems](#) presents new data on effective carbon rates on CO2-emissions for energy use across 6 economic sectors in 41 countries (34 OECD member countries and 7 partner economies: Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russia and South Africa) find a major gap between current carbon pricing policies and what is needed, EUR 30 per tonne of CO2.

More information at: <http://www.oecd.org/tax/tax-policy/carbon-pricing-efforts-are-falling-short-but-even-modest-collective-action-can-deliver-significant-progress.htm>

## **26. UNECE assists SPECA Members to disseminate Road Transport Safety Statistics**

In order to help collecting and disseminating road transport and road safety statistics best practices amongst the countries from the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) region, UNECE organised a workshop in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (8th of September 2016).

One of the crucial topics of the 21st TWG-STTC meeting was achieving SDG goals related to transport and assistance to SPECA member countries in implementing and monitoring SDGs.

To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/transport/2016/unece-assists-speca-member-countries-to-collect-and-disseminate-road-transport-and-road-safety-statistics/doc.html>