



FIATA Secretariat
Schaffhauserstrasse 104
P.O. Box 364
CH-8152 Glattbrugg
Switzerland
Phone +41 (0)43 211 65 00
Fax +41 (0)43 211 65 65

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ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS

1. FIATA Questionnaire - The Growth of Freight Consignments through eCommerce

FIATA has prepared a questionnaire to assess the growth of freight consignments through ecommerce platforms. The questionnaire will help identify some of the challenges faced by our members when working with ecommerce merchants to trade products.

We kindly ask our members to complete a short 5 min survey which can be access below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PY3BLVZ>

2. Confirming your Counterpart is a FIATA Member

FIATA has received cases of companies posing as members using the FIATA name and logo to legitimatise their business dealings. We highly advise you to check whether your counterpart is a FIATA member on our directory's list found on our website:

<http://fiata.com/membership/individual-members/members-directory-submit/members-directory.html>

We have also assembled a list of companies which have misused the FIATA logo in the past. This list can be found at: <http://fiata.com/media/publications/misuse-of-the-fiata-logo.html#c554>

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

3. IATA Updates Lithium Battery Guidance

Members are made aware of IATA's updated Lithium Battery Guidance Document (2017). This guidance document bases on the provisions set out in the 2017-2018 Edition of the ICAO Technical Instruction for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (Technical Instructions) and IATA's 58th Edition of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR).

These updates have been updated in the new training materials for the ICAO FIATA DG Training Program and are incorporated by local training centres. For further information please refer to:

<http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dgr/Documents/lithium-battery-guidance-document-2017-en.pdf>

4. WTO - Saint Vincent & the Grenadines & Mozambique Ratify the Trade Facilitation Agreement

Saint Vincent, the Grenadines and Mozambique have ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), making it the 105th and 106th WTO member to do so. Only four more ratifications from members are needed to bring the TFA into force. The TFA will enter into force once two-thirds of the WTO membership has formally accepted the Agreement.

To read more please visit:

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/fac_09jan17_e.htm

5. WTO - Nominations for Director-General closed; Azevêdo Confirmed as Sole Candidate

General Council Chairperson, Ambassador Harald Neple of Norway, informed WTO members on 4th of January that no further nominations for the position of Director-General had been received by the deadline of 31st of December 2016 and that the incumbent Director-General, Roberto Azevêdo, is therefore the only candidate for the role.

Director-General Azevêdo confirmed his willingness to serve a second term in the role in a letter to WTO members on 3 November 2016 at the outset of the selection process. DG Azevêdo's current term comes to an end on 31 August 2017.

To read more please visit:

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/dgsel_04jan17_e.htm

6. UNCTAD - Trade with Sudan made Cheaper and Quicker by 'Trade Roadmap'

Seeking ways to boost its economy, the East African nation of Sudan aims to remove unnecessary costs and reduce the time to trade across its borders by 40%, boosting exports by at least 25% by the end of 2021, according to a new plan launched by the Sudan Working Group on Trade Facilitation in December 2016. The plan, which comes as Sudan became the first country to complete [UNCTAD's Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees](#), aims to both boost GDP and improve the country's standing in international logistics rankings: Sudan placed 184 out of 189 countries in the World Bank's Trading Across Borders index in 2016.

To read more please visit:

http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1419&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=Transport;#510;

7. AfDB approves USD 159 million corporate loan to Ethiopian Airlines

The African Development Bank has a long-lasting relationship with Ethiopian Airlines and newly approved intervention is the second corporate loan to Ethiopian Airlines processed under the Bank's private sector window.

To read more please visit: <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/afdb-approves-usd-159-million-corporate-loan-to-ethiopian-airlines-to-finance-expansion-plan-and-fleet-modernization-program-16573/>

REGIONAL TRADE TOPICS

8. UNESCAP - China, Mongolia and Russia into New Era of Trade Cooperation by Road

A new era of trade cooperation between China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation was opened in Moscow when the governments of the three countries signed the Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network. By signing the Agreement, each country agreed to give the other two countries traffic rights for international road transport operation on the parts of Asian Highway routes AH3 and AH 4 connecting their respective territories.

To read more please visit: http://www.unescap.org/news/china-mongolia-and-russian-federation-open-new-era-trade-cooperation?utm_source=Mailing+List+-+General&utm_campaign=8717c4cb1b-ESCAP+Newsletter%2C+January+2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e318af22fc-8717c4cb1b-116437145

9. FIATA participates in UNESCAP Ministerial Meeting

FIATA President Zhao Huxiang gave a speech at the UNESCAP Ministerial meeting in Moscow on December 5th 2016 presenting FIATA Members' view on contemporary challenges that logistics are facing in supporting the complex trade facilitation agenda.

To read more on the event, please log on to:

<http://www.unescap.org/events/ministerial-conference-transport-third-session>

10. UNESCAP, Ministers Discuss Roadmap for Sustainable Transport Connectivity

Transport ministers and senior government officials from across the Asia-Pacific region met in Moscow to exchange views on emerging issues in developing sustainable transport connectivity, and discuss ways to make transport systems in the region integrated, safe, affordable, inclusive and environmentally sound. They discussed their regional action programme which is expected to introduce maritime transport corridors that complement existing land networks to form a regional intermodal transport system for enhancing the transport connectivity of landlocked developing countries, coastal countries and small island developing states.

To read more please visit: http://www.unescap.org/news/asia-pacific-transport-ministers-discuss-regional-roadmap-sustainable-transport-connectivity?utm_source=Mailing+List+-+General&utm_campaign=8717c4cb1b-ESCAP+Newsletter%2C+January+2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e318af22fc-8717c4cb1b-116437145

11. Ecuador Joins EU-Colombia/Peru Trade Agreement

Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström signed the Protocol of Accession of Ecuador to the [EU's Trade Agreement with Colombia and Peru](#). This pro-development agreement will open up markets on both sides, increase stability and predictability for trade and investment in both directions, and promote inclusive and sustainable development.

Read more at: http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1576&title=Ecuador-joins-EU-Colombia/Peru-trade-agreement&newsletter_id=230&utm_source=trade_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EU%20Trade%20&utm_content=EU-Ecuador%20free%20trade%20&lang=en

CUSTOMS

12. WCO supports Saudi Customs Implementing Post Clearance Audit

In seeking to effectively manage Customs risk, as a result of ever-increasing trade volumes, Saudi Customs decided to enhance its risk-based controls at borders by setting up a post clearance audit (PCA) section in January 2017. To achieve its objective, the administration requested assistance from the WCO on the policy and technical aspects relating to international audit technique standards.

To read more please visit: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/january/wco-supports-saudi-customs-in-implementing-post-clearance-audit.aspx>

13. WCO - New Global HS Standard Enters into Force

The new version of the Harmonized System (HS) Nomenclature entered into force on 1 January 2017. Developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and adopted in 1983, this is the Sixth Edition of this global standard, used by over 200 countries and Economic or Customs Unions (including the 154 Contracting Parties to the HS Convention) for classifying goods in international trade.

The 2017 edition of the HS Nomenclature includes 5,386 six-digit subheadings (compared to 5,205 in the 2012 edition). In total, the 2017 edition is comprised of 233 sets of amendments: 85 relating to the agricultural sector; 45 to the chemical sector; 13 to the wood sector; 15 to the textile sector; 25 to the machinery sector; 18 to the transport sector; and an additional 32 that apply to a variety of other sectors.

To read more please visit: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/january/new-global-hs-standard-enters-into-force.aspx>

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY

14. UNFCCC - COP 23/CMP 13/CMA 1.2: Information for Participants

The 2017 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 23) will take place 6th - 17th of November at the World Conference Centre in Bonn, Germany, the seat of the Climate Change Secretariat. The Conference will be convened under the Presidency of Fiji. FIATA participated in the previous COP22 delivering a presentation during the low emissions carbon portion of the event.

To read more about the upcoming COP23 please visit:
http://unfccc.int/meetings/bonn_nov_2017/items/10068.php

15. France Submits Long-Term National Climate Plan to UNFCCC

France has submitted its long-term climate action plan under the Paris Agreement to the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The highlights of the plan include a 40 percent target reduction in emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 and a 75 percent reduction by 2050 compared to 1990. In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 19, of the Paris Agreement, all Parties to the UNFCCC should strive to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, mindful of Article 2 and taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances. The details of this and other long-term plans can be accessed [here](#).

16. UNECE - Review to Support the Achievement and Monitoring of SDGs

UNECE environmental performance reviews (EPRs) can play an important role in supporting the achievement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). EPRs can assess the progress made by a country in achieving the relevant SDGs, identify challenges and provide recommendations to address them. These were the conclusions of the extended meeting of the Expert Group on Environmental Performance Reviews, which took place in Geneva on 9 December 2016.

To read more please visit: <http://www.unece.org/info/media/news/environment/2016/eprs-to-support-the-achievement-and-monitoring-of-sdgs/doc.html>

17. Recommendation No. 41 on Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation

Following the intersessional approval period that ended on 25th of December 2016, Recommendation No. 41 on [Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation](#) has been approved. FIATA will follow closely the implementation of this recommendations as it will gain importance with the ratification of the WTO TFA.

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

