E-Flash

E-Flash 143 - January 30th

ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS

1. 2017 FIATA HQ Meeting - Registration Link Sent to FIATA Members

Registration for the 2017 FIATA HQ Meeting opened last week with a link sent to all FIATA members encouraging their participation. This year, the meeting will take place from March 31st to April 2nd. The Headquarters meeting is mainly policy oriented and should not be compared with the World Congress or the Regional Meetings.

Details of the program can be found on the FIATA website:
http://www.fiata.com/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Meetings/FIATA_HQ_Session_2017_Programme.pdf

2. WCO Working Group on eCommerce - The Growth of Freight Consignments

As the number of online listings for freight items rapidly grows on eCommerce platforms, the need to enhance trade facilitation measure to provide opportunities for online merchants to move their larger products becomes critical. This has led to FIATA's participation in the WCO's thematic work in Brussels between 23rd and 25th of January. FIATA's DG Marco Sorgetti was co-lead of the sub-WG II focussed on safety and Security together with US CBP and IATA. Other WG's focussed on trade facilitation, revenue and measurement and analysis issue. The event was followed by the International Customs Day, where SG Kunio Mikuriya made the following statement:

http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/january/message-of-the-wco-secretary-general-on-international-customs-day-2017.aspx

Members interested in accessing FIATA's 5 minute survey on eCommece and contribute their views, please visit the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PY3BLVZ

3. UNCTAD's First International Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees - FIATA's Participation

This week UNCTAD held its First International Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees in Geneva, Switzerland. FIATA's CAI Chairman Steve Morris was invited to participate in UNCTAD's continued support for Trade Facilitation reforms in developing and Least Developed Countries working with National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFC). FIATA's SVP Babar Badat also participated on behalf of Pakistan. FIATA stretched out a helping hand offering to work with NTFC to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement once ratified. The Forum focussed on accessing technical assistance for the NTFCs.

To read about FIATA's relevant position paper please visit:

http://fiata.com/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Position_Papers/TFA_Main_instrument_of_development_for_better_global_trade_Public_statement_.pdf

For more information on UNCTAD's event please visit:
http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1164

4. WTO - Nigeria and Nepal Ratify the Trade Facilitation Agreement

Nigeria and Nepal have ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), making them the 107th and 108th WTO member to do so. Only two more ratifications from members are needed to bring the TFA into force. The TFA broke new ground for developing and least-developed countries in the way it will be implemented. 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.
For further information on Nigeria's ratification please visit -
https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/fac_20jan17_e.htm

For further information on Nepal's ratification please visit -
https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/fac_24jan17_e.htm

5. UNCTAD Launches Multilingual Online Repository for National TF Committees

In an effort to enhance transparency and the free flow of information, UNCTAD has created an Online Repository for National Trade Facilitation Bodies - an online platform promulgating information on National Trade Facilitation Committees. The underlining objective is to compile data from NTFCs around the globe into a single standardised repertoire to expedite research and comparisons. An interactive map shows users which NTFCs have already been formally established and the legal instruments they used such as decrees, ministerial decisions, and terms of references, among others.

6. UNCTAD - Trade with Sudan made cheaper and quicker as 'trade roadmap' is adopted

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 county's standing in international logistics rankings.

To read more please visit:
http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1419&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=Transport;#510;#Trade Facilitation;#20;#UNCTAD Home

7. UNESCAP - Regional Leaders Agree on Preferential Tariffs

Ministers from countries party to the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) met during the Fourth APTA Ministerial Council to conclude negotiations that will more than double the number of products under preferential tariff treatment in order to expand trade and boost growth in the region. Trade and investment have been instrumental in Asia and the Pacific in reducing poverty, empowering women, achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and decent employment. Countries party to APTA include: Bangladesh, China, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. Mongolia has acceded to APTA as a new Participating State, pending its national ratification. To read more please visit: http://www.unescap.org/news/un-forum-regional-leaders-agree-expand-preferential-tariffs-expand-trade-asia-and-pacific

8. WCO Supports MENA Customs to Implement 2017 Harmonized System

Recognising the importance of the entry into force of the new version of the Harmonized System (HS) Nomenclature, the WCO successfully led a five-day seminar on implementing the amendments in the 2017 version of the Harmonised System (HS 2017) and on the harmonised Technical Guidelines on Advance Rulings for Classification, Origin and Valuation. This seminar was held at the Amman Regional Training Centre (RTC) in Jordan 11ᵗʰ - 15ᵗʰ of December 2016.
To read more please visit: http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/january/wco-supports-customs-administrations-in-the-mena-region-in-implementing-the-2017-version-of-the-hs.aspx

9. ADB, ICC Academy Partner to Provide Online Trade Finance Certification

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Academy recently signed an agreement to offer online training courses and accreditation programs on global trade and trade finance. The courses will be offered by ADB's Trade Finance Program (TFP) using ICC Academy's international training model and digital platform. To read more please visit: https://www.adb.org/news/adb-icc-academy-partner-provide-online-trade-finance-certification

10. EU and US publish TTIP state of play assessment

Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and United States Trade Representative Michael Froman have published a joint assessment of the progress made in the negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) since negotiations started in July 2013. The joint EU-US report outlines progress made in all areas of the talks, namely on better access to markets for EU and US firms, on simplifying technical regulations without lowering standards and on global rules of trade, including sustainable development, labour and the environment with a dedicated chapter on smaller firms.

To read more please visit:
http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1613&newsletter_id=230&utm_source=trade_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EU%20Trade%20&utm_content=EU%20and%20US%20publish%20TTIP%20state%20of%20play%20assessment&lang=en

11. UNECA - Canada's Progressive Trade Agenda Starts in Africa

Canada is working with the UN Economic Commission for Africa to support African efforts for a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) that would eliminate tariffs, streamline border-related issues, address non-tariff barriers and achieve common rules on investment and services.   According to OECD data, Canada's contributions to aid-for-trade initiatives is declining as its commitment to Official Development Assistance (ODA) also declines. To read more please visit:
http://www.uneca.org/stories/canada%E2%80%99s-progressive-trade-agenda-starts-africa

AIR FREIGHT

12. UNCTAD and IATA Agree on ebXML Standard for Asycyda.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) announced that IATA's Cargo-XML messaging standard has now been fully integrated into ASYCUDA World, the UNCTAD automated customs management system used by 90 countries worldwide for their customs procedures. To read more:
http://www.iata.org/pressroom/pr/Pages/2017-01-25-01.aspx

13. ICAO - Traffic Growth and Airline Profitability were Highlights of Air Transport in 2016

World scheduled freight traffic, measured in freight tonne-kilometres (FTK), grew by 2.6 per cent in 2016, a slight improvement from the 1.7 per cent growth registered in 2015. The international segment of freight traffic, which represents nearly 87 per cent of total air freight, grew by around 2.5 per cent, up from the 1.8 per cent growth in 2015. The scheduled international freight load factor declined from around 47 per cent in 2015 to 46 per cent in 2016.

To read more please visit: http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/traffic-growth-and-airline-profitability-were-highlights-of-air-transport-in-2016.aspx

14. IATA - 2nd Global Shippers' Survey

IATA took contact with FIATA to receive support in reaching out to shippers when they launched the 2nd **IATA Global Shippers Survey** (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XMW8R62) (deadline for completion is the 15th of February). With this five minutes' questionnaire IATA is seeking shippers' experiences and expectations when they are using air freight services to transport their goods. This will help IATA and its airline members to better understand our customers' needs with a view to improve and promote air freight services. Freight forwarders use all modes of transport and they are also principal customers of airlines in designing their services to address shippers' requirements. FIATA members who wish to do so are more than welcome to share the survey with their customers.

The report of the 1st survey is available on IATA's website:
http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/Documents/2015-global-shipper-survey.pdf

15. IATA - November Air Freight Demand Reflects Strong Peak Season

IATA released data for global air freight markets showing that demand, measured in freight tonne kilometres (FTKs), rose 6.8% in November 2016 compared to the year-earlier period. This was a slight slowdown from the 8.4% annual growth recorded in October 2016 - which was a 20-month high - but was still more than 2.5 times the average annual monthly growth rate of 2.6% over the past decade.

To read the full analysis please visit: http://www.iata.org/pressroom/pr/Pages/2017-01-10-01.aspx

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY

16. UNFCCC - Athens 25th Airport in Europe to Achieve Carbon Neutral Status

Athens raises the number of carbon neutral airports across the world to 28, and with the bulk of them in Europe, ACI Europe is well on its way to achieving its goal of having 50 carbon neutral airports across the continent by 2030. Across the four available levels of the Airport Carbon Accreditation programme, there are currently a total of 180 airports, working to address their CO_2 emissions. These airports welcome 37.3% of global passenger traffic.

Read more at: http://www.airport-world.com/news/general-news/6014-athens-becomes-the-25th-airport-in-europe-to-achieve-carbon-neutral-status.html

17. WEF Davos - Making New Silk Road 'Smart' Can Boost Region's GDP

Small and medium-sized enterprises along the routes of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative can boost the GDP of these countries by 4% to 7% as a result of increased market access, a new World Economic Forum study finds. Lack of access to global markets is currently their main impediment to growth. Through the One Belt, One Road initiative, one of the biggest infrastructure projects of the 21st century, China and partnering countries aim to transform and develop a region that holds 70% of

the global population and 55% of the global GDP through improved trade and technology. The full paper, a joint study by the World Economic Forum and Bain & Company, can be accessed [here](#).

18. ECA Hosts Meeting to Discuss Implementation of SDG Indicators

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) will run a post-World Data Forum workshop in Cape Town, South Africa, to discuss the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals indicator framework.

To read more please visit: http://www.uneca.org/stories/eca-hosts-meeting-discuss-implementation-sdg-indicator-framework

19. AfDB - Enabling Direct Access to Climate Finance in Africa

"Out of US $331 billion of global climate finance flows in 2014, only 3.6% went to Africa. If only 3.6%, despite Africa's vulnerability to climate change, something must be wrong". This, according to Luc Gnacadja, Special Representative for the Board of the [Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL)](#).

African institutions need support in order to build their capacities to access climate finance, according to Ndiaye Cheick Sylla, alternate Board member of the GCF and Advisor to the Senegalese Government on climate change. "The GCF is providing this support through its [readiness programme](#)". Several other institutions including WRI, the AfDB, the German development agency, GIZ, and others are also supporting such initiatives.

To read more please visit: https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/enabling-direct-access-to-climate-finance-in-africa-16662/