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*E-Flash 146 – March 13th 2017*

## **ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS**

### **1. Save the Date of the Next UIC/FIATA Rail Market Place Seminar**

FIATA and UIC are pleased to announce the eighth edition of the Market Place Seminar to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 in Duisburg, Germany. Under the title: "Inland Hubs - Key towards Rail Freight Corridor Development" brings together railway undertakings, terminal operators, freight forwarders and customers, this important meeting's dates are a must in your agenda if you are dealing with rail freight or wish to know more about rail freight services.

More details will be provided closer to the event date.

### **2. 2017 RAME Field Meeting Registration Open - Take Advantage of Early Bird Registration**

Take advantage the early bird registration price of 550 USD for RAME's 17<sup>th</sup> annual conference to be held between 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2017, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Casablanca, Morocco.

Organised by the Association of Freight Forwarders of Morocco (AFFM), this meeting will enable freight forwarders to establish contacts and develop business relationships with their counterparts from all over the world.

For more details on the conference and to registration please visit the meeting's website at: <http://rame2017.com/>

## **INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

### **3. OECD - Compare your Country: New Online Tool to Visualise Transport Indicators**

Called Compare your Country: Key Transport Indicators, the tool allows users to freely select among 19 transport-related indicators for more than 50 countries. The tool presents highly accessible data for topics including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, road safety, infrastructure investment, modal shares and the transport network. The tool can be accessed at

[http://www.if-oecd.org/search/statistics-and-data?f%255B0%255D=field\\_publication\\_type%3A648](http://www.if-oecd.org/search/statistics-and-data?f%255B0%255D=field_publication_type%3A648)

### **4. DG Azevêdo Welcomes EU Trade Ministers' Support for Global Trading System**

Addressing a meeting of European Union trade ministers in Malta on 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2017, the newly re-appointed WTO's Director-General Roberto Azevêdo argued that EU leadership will be more important than ever in supporting the rules-based multilateral trading system. He welcomed the strong support for the WTO that the EU and its members have shown in recent months. To read more please visit: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news17\\_e/dgra\\_02mar17\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/dgra_02mar17_e.htm)

## **5. WTO - Sweden Gives SEK 100 Million to Help Poorest Countries**

The Government of Sweden (via Sida) has committed SEK 100 million (US\$ 11.5 million) to the second phase of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) programme, providing an immediate disbursement of SEK 20 million (US\$2.4 million) for 2017. The contribution will help to improve the trading capacity of the world's poorest countries and to create jobs that lift people out of poverty. To read more please visit: [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news17\\_e/if\\_02mar17\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/if_02mar17_e.htm)

## **6. UNCTAD eCommerce Week 2017 - Connecting the Dots**

High-level representatives of the digital economy from governments, the private sector, international organisations, civil society and youth will gather in Geneva from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of April for UNCTAD's eCommerce Week 2017, themed "Towards Inclusive eCommerce". eCommerce Week 2017 comes at a crucial moment. Many governments are analysing the impact of the digital economy and eCommerce on global trade, and the week will provide opportunities to further discuss the key challenges and opportunities.

To read more please

visit: [http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1438&Sitemap\\_x0020\\_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20E-Week%202017;#20;#UNCTAD Home;#2147;#Youth Network](http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1438&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20E-Week%202017;#20;#UNCTAD Home;#2147;#Youth Network)

## **7. WCO - Mexico and Hong Kong Sign Joint Action Plan for Authorised Economic Operator**

Following the Guidelines published by the World Customs Organisation (WCO) regarding the development of Mutual Recognition Arrangements, Mexico and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, formalised a Joint Action Plan regarding the mutual recognition of their respective Authorised Economic Operator Programmes seeking to endorse the commitment of increasing trade facilitation and enhance security within the logistic supply chain.

Read more at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/march/mexico-and-hong-kong-sign-joint-action-plan-regarding-authorized-economic-operator.aspx>

## **8. WCO supports the EAC Region to Develop a Regional AEO program**

The WCO has successfully conducted a four-day workshop from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2017 at Arusha, Tanzania to develop a Communication Visibility Plan (CVP) for the roll-out of the EAC Regional AEO programme. This initiative, financed by the Government of Sweden has been provided through the WCO EAC CREATE Project for the benefit of the East African Community (EAC) Region. The workshop was attended by National Project Managers and Communication Experts from the 5 EAC Partner states, with the support of a WCO Communication expert.

To read more please visit: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/february/wco-supports-the-eac-region-to-develop-a-communication-plan-for-the-regional-aeo-program.aspx>

## **9. WCO - Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda Launch Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System**

At the invitation of the Ugandan Commissioner of Customs, Mr Dicksons Kateshumbwa, WCO Director for Compliance and Facilitation Ana Hinojosa visited Uganda on 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2017, to attend the official launching of the Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS) to track goods under customs control from point of loading to a final destination within Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

To read more please visit: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/february/kenya-rwanda-and-uganda-officially-launch-regional-electronic-cargo-tracking-system.aspx>

## **10. WCO Mercator Programme supports Bosnia and Herzegovina with Trade Measures**

Under the Mercator Programme and supported by the EUROCUSTOMS fund, the WCO and the Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) of Bosnia and Herzegovina organised a 'National Workshop on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement - awareness raising, identifying key priorities for implementation and supporting the establishment of a National Committee on Trade Facilitation'. The workshop was held from 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2017 in Banja Luka. Twenty-five representatives from the Customs, inspection agencies and the private sector took part in the workshop.

Read more at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/february/wco-mercator-programme-supports-bosnia.aspx>

## **11. IATA - New Area Office Reflects Growing Relevance of Air Transport in Panama**

IATA inaugurated a new area office in Panama City, Panama. The office will be the focal point for IATA's interactions with key aviation stakeholders in seven Central American countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Read more at: <http://www.iata.org/pressroom/pr/Pages/2017-02-22-01.aspx>

## **SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY**

### **12. ICAO Council Adopts new CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Standard for Aircraft**

The 36-State ICAO Council has adopted a new aircraft CO<sub>2</sub> emissions standard which will reduce the impact of aviation greenhouse gas emissions on the global climate. The Standard will apply to new aircraft type designs from 2020, and to aircraft type designs already in-production as of 2023. Those in-production aircraft which by 2028 do not meet the standard will no longer be able to be produced unless their designs are sufficiently modified.

To read more please visit: <http://www.icao.int/Newsroom/Pages/ICAO-Council-adopts-new-CO2-emissions-standard-for-aircraft.aspx>

### **13. UNFCCC - Singapore to Adopt Carbon Tax from 2019**

At Budget 2017, the Singapore Government announced its intent to implement a carbon tax on the emission of greenhouse gases. They will consult widely with stakeholders, and aim to implement the carbon tax from 2019. The government has started industry consultations and will continue to reach out to companies to hear their views. Public consultations will begin in March 2017.

To read more please visit: <https://www.nccs.gov.sg/climate-change-and-singapore/domestic-actions/reducing-emissions/carbon-pricing>

### **14. EU Emissions Trading System: Council Negotiates with Parliament**

EU environment ministers reached an agreement in support of the revision of the Emissions Trading Systems (ETS) Directive for the period after 2020. The agreement comes after almost two years of discussions in the Council, led since the start of this year by the Maltese presidency, and serves as the basis for negotiations with the European Parliament.

To read more please visit: [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-emissions-trading-system-council-deal-paves-way-negotiations-parliament\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-emissions-trading-system-council-deal-paves-way-negotiations-parliament_en)

## **15. ADB - Asia Infrastructure Needs Exceed \$1.7 Trillion Per Year**

The ADB report, Meeting Asia's Infrastructure Needs, focuses on the region's power, transport, telecommunications, and water and sanitation infrastructure. Of the total climate-adjusted investment needs over 2016-2030, \$14.7 trillion will be for power and \$8.4 trillion for transport.

It was also cited that regulatory and institutional reforms are needed to make infrastructure more attractive to private investors and generate a pipeline of bankable projects for public-private partnerships (PPPs).

To read more please visit: <https://www.adb.org/news/asia-infrastructure-needs-exceed-17-trillion-year-double-previous-estimates>