



E-Flash 147 – March 23th 2017

ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS

1. FIATA HQ Session to Kick Off from March 30th - April 2nd

FIATA members will gather at this year's Headquarters' Session, which will take place between March 30th and April 2nd 2017 in Zurich, Switzerland to discuss industry developments and outline a focussed plan for FIATA's to pursue. We look forward to welcoming all delegates and members engaging in fruitful discussions. For more information on events and programme visit:

<http://fiata.com/events/fiata-congresses-hq-sessions.html> or direct link to the HQ programme http://fiata.com/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Meetings/FIATA_HQ_Session_2017_Programme.pdf

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND TRADE

2. Building a Better Picture of Asian Forwarding Markets

Two leading consultants are developing a New APAC Forwarding Index, which will come to users free of charge. They need input from forwarders via a two-minute survey to build a complete picture of the market. To participate please click [here](#). The New APAC Forwarding Index is being developed by award-winning freight journalist and consultant Mike King, and Cathy Roberson, an industry veteran who has been consulting on logistics markets for two decades. The full Index will be published in the coming months with methodology and analysis provided by King and Roberson, the founders of, respectively, Mike King & Associates and Logistics Trends & Insights LLC.

If you wish to know more on this initiative, please contact Reby Baldoz at reby@mkingassociates.com.

Please note FIATA is limiting its role to disseminating information to members in line with its statutory provisions. FIATA does not take any view on this initiative.

3. DOJ Defines Compliance

In the span of the last 18 months, the topic of corporate compliance programs has gotten considerable attention from the Department of Justice ("DOJ") and now finally, DOJ has published significant details about how it is likely to measure the sufficiency of any company's compliance program.

To read more please visit: <https://blogmsk.com/2017/03/15/dojdefinescompliance/>

4. WCO Private Sector Consultative Group Meets to Discuss Customs and Trade Issues

The WCO Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG) met for the 40th time at WCO headquarters on 27 and 28 February 2017. The meeting was attended by representatives from 18 of the 21 PSCG members from various industries.

The Group provided comments and proposals from an industry perspective on the WCO Strategic Plan 2016-2017 and the draft WCO Environmental Scan. Moreover, the Group was updated on the issue of eCommerce by the Co-Chair of the WCO E-Commerce Working Group, Marianne Rowden from AAEL, and by Ana Hinojosa, WCO Director of Compliance and Facilitation.

To read more about the event please visit

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/march/wco-private-sector-consultative-group-meets-to-discuss-customs-and-trade-issues.aspx>

5. WCO TFA Working Group and Capacity Building Committee Joint Session

The World Customs Organisation Trade Facilitation Agreement Working Group (TFAWG) successfully concluded the second day of its 7th Meeting. The second day consisted of a Joint Session with the 8th Meeting of the Capacity Building Committee (CBC). Discussions focused on the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) that entered into force on 22 February 2017.

The Joint Session of TFAWG and CBC discussed the successes of the WCO Mercator Programme, a dedicated Capacity Building Programme consisting of WCO Instruments and Tools such as the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) and the WCO Time Release Study (TRS) to support Members in the harmonised implementation of the TFA.

To read more please visit: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/march/wco-tfawg-and-cbc-conclude-historical-joint-session.aspx>

6. UNECA Experts Participate in 5th Meeting of the CFTA Negotiating Forum

Experts from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) recently participated in the 5th meeting of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Negotiating Forum that was hosted by the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa. Commissioner for Trade and Industry at the African Union, Ms Fatima Haram Acyl, said she was confident that by the end of 2017, national traditional borders will be less important following the establishment of the CFTA. Read more at: <http://www.uneca.org/stories/eca-experts-participate-5th-meeting-cfta-negotiating-forum>

7. EU and ASEAN Gear Up for Possible Re-Launch of Trade Talks

Trade leaders from the EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed to take new steps towards resuming free trade talks between the two regions. The decision was taken at the annual EU-ASEAN ministerial consultations held in the Filipino capital Manila, in which EU Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström participated.

To read more please visit: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1631>

8. EU and Singapore Affirm Commitment to Putting Free Trade Deal in Place

EU Commissioner for Trade, Cecilia Malmström, and Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry (Trade) Lim Hng Kiang reiterated their commitment to a swift entry into force of the free trade agreement between the EU and Singapore. To read more please visit: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1630>

9. EU - Commissioner Malmström in Canada to Discuss CETA Preparations

Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström is in Canada for a two-day visit focused on the preparations for the upcoming entry into force of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement, known as CETA, and the EU's ambitious agenda for free and fair trade.

To read more please visit: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1635>

eCOMMERCE

10. WTO - Financial Inclusion Key to Delivering Full Development Potential of eCommerce

Speaking at a recent seminar on digital payments and financial inclusion, WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo said underdeveloped financial and payment systems are hindering the use of electronic commerce as a tool for growth and development.

To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/spra_e/spra161_e.htm

11. UNCTAD - Harnessing the Power of eCommerce for Economic Growth

2017 E-commerce Week themed "Towards Inclusive E-Commerce" will take place on 24th - 28th of April gathering high-level representatives of the digital economy from governments, private sector, International organisations, civil society and youths. While global trade growth has been stagnant for several years, eCommerce has been growing rapidly. Between 2013 and 2015, the value of online trade accelerated upwards, between 2013 and 2015, from \$16 trillion to \$22 trillion. To read more please visit:

http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1451&Sitemap_x0020_Taxonomy=UNCTAD%20Home;#2149;#UNCTAD E-Week 2017;#2147;#Youth Network

12. WCO Publishes a Study Report on eCommerce

Based on a short survey answered by the Organisation's Members, the Report compiles Customs administrations' practices as well as their ongoing and/or future initiatives related to the processing of cross-border low-value eCommerce. In January, FIATA participated in the WCO's Sub working Group on eCommerce as co-lead together with USA CBP and IATA. FIATA has been active in the eCommerce field over the past months also releasing its own survey to its members to gather input. Read more at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/march/wco-publishes-a-study-report-on-e-commerce.aspx>

AIR CARGO

13. IATA Cargo Handling Manual to Promote Standardisation of Cargo Handling

Whilst taking account of the established rebound of air cargo, IATA announced during the World Cargo Symposium in Abu Dhabi, the launch of the [IATA Cargo Handling Manual](#) (ICHM) to help airlines and cargo handlers work together more effectively while improving safety and efficiency in air cargo operations. The ICHM is a set of standards covering the operational activities of all stakeholders in the cargo handling supply chain. It was developed in consultation with Air Carriers and Cargo Handlers, based on industry best-practices, the [Cargo-iQ Master Operating Plan](#) (MOP) and international regulations and standards.

Read more at: <http://www.iata.org/pressroom/pr/Pages/2017-03-15-01.aspx>

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY

14. UNECA Urges Africa to Invest More in Infrastructure for Sustainable Development

African governments and their partners should focus on developing hard infrastructure and support efforts of Ministers in Charge of Trade and Integration to realise a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) that encompasses rules for intra-African trade in goods and services, key among them energy, transport and logistics services. Read more at: <http://www.uneca.org/stories/eca-urges-africa-invest-more-infrastructure-sustainable-development>

15. ILO and UNFCCC Team Up to Boost Action on Climate and Jobs

An agreement to promote decent work and a "just transition" of the workforce towards sustainable economies and societies for all has been signed by the UN's labour and climate change organisations. The move follows the adoption and entry-into-force of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate agreement that aims to deliver a climate stable future for everyone.

To read more please visit:

http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_547216/lang--en/index.htm?shared_from=media-mail

16. AfDB - Addis Ababa and Accra Workshops to Identify Transport Development

Workshops take place in Ethiopia and Ghana to identify opportunities for investment to improve sustainable urban transport and mobility in the two cities. A [study](#) released identifies a 'pipeline' of tangible and viable projects that address significant urban transport challenges in cities. These projects could have considerable and sustainable impact on urban and freight mobility in the five cities examined, while also generating substantial national and regional economic benefits.

To read more please visit: <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/addis-ababa-and-accra-workshops-to-identify-urban-transport-development-opportunities-16802/>

