



e- Flash No. 151 – 22. May 2017

ASSOCIATIONS' AFFAIRS

1. FIATA Membership on the Rise

Not only did the FIATA 2017 Headquarters' Session in Zurich have a new touch and atmosphere, it also held a record on the global spread with 242 participating members coming from 63 different countries! And this also marked a record in terms of new members joining FIATA, nearly 100 joined!

We are looking forward to meeting all of our members in future at the FIATA World Congress in Kuala Lumpur to celebrate. We are delighted to give a warm welcome to our 98 new members who joined in the months of March and April.

For more details on our new members please visit: <http://fiata.com/media/press-releases/2017/11-may.html>

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

2. WTO - Committee on Trade Facilitation Meets for First Time

WTO members gathered on 16 May for the inaugural meeting of the Committee on Trade Facilitation, the body responsible for overseeing implementation of the WTO's historic Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). At the inaugural meeting, members elected Ambassador Daniel Blockert (Sweden) as chair of the committee. The committee will develop procedures for the sharing of relevant information and best practices among members. After four years, the committee will review the operation and implementation of the TFA.

For more details please visit:

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/fac_16may17_e.htm

3. WTO - DDG Agah urges African Nations to Seize Opportunities for Trade Facilitation

African governments should take advantage of the ample assistance that is available from bilateral donors and international and regional organizations to implement the WTO's new Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), Deputy Director-General Yonov Fred Agah, who was speaking at a World Economic Forum on Africa meeting in Durban, South Africa. DDP SAgah had participated in the FIATA World Congress in Istanbul in 2014. To date, 19 African countries have ratified the TFA and focus now turns to implementation.

To read more please visit: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news17_e/ddgra_08may17_e.htm

4. WCO - EAC on Customs Posts Record-Breaking Growth for AEO Programme

The WCO-EAC CREATE project team reported the number of regional Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) had increased from 13 to 46. These 46 companies accounted for a record-breaking 930 000 000 USD in trade volume in March 2017, which represented over 5% of the regional trade in the EAC region according to the statistics provided by EAC Partner States (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda).

Read more at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/may/eac-committee-on-customs.aspx>

5. WCO Asia-Pacific Regional Strategic Workshop on the WCO Security Programme

34 Member Administrations were introduced to the Programme Global Shield, Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (STCE) Programme through the SALW Project and the Security Project Fund for South East Asia. The workshop also included a study visit to Soekarno-Hatta International Airport where participants were shown the API-PNR passenger targeting centre along with the freight clearance and passenger clearances processes.

Read more at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/may/wco-asia-pacific-regional-strategic-workshop-on-the-wco-security-programme.aspx>

6. FIATA hosted at SIPRI's Meeting on Internal Compliance Policies in Trade Control

FIATA's DG was invited to present transport sector's challenges in the development of Strategic Trade Control's Internal Compliance Programmes in Stockholm on May 17th and 18th. SIPRI's guidance for freight forwarders was circulated to CAI association members on 17th of May 2017. The document is publicly available: <https://www.sipri.org/publications/2016/freight-forwarders-good-practice-guide>

More information is available by application, please contact the Secretariat.

7. First WCO Global Origin Conference Held in Africa

As regional integration continues to be a driving force for the Global Supply Chain, rules of origin remain a prominent feature of today's international trading system, the Conference confirmed that free trade agreements are beneficial for regional integration, foster foreign investments, whilst rules of origin are crucial for the implementation and securing revenue collection. Delegations agreed on the desire of modernising the [Revised Kyoto Convention \(Annex K\)](#)

Read more at: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2017/may/first-wco-global-origin-conference-held-in-africa.aspx>

8. UNECA - Tackling Maritime-Related Issues in Africa

Stakeholders in Africa's maritime sector will converge in Abidjan, Côte d' Ivoire, 21st - 23rd of June 2017, for a policy dialogue dubbed, "Governance of Maritime Resources and Activities for Sustainable Development in Africa."

By 2050, about one fourth of the world's population will be living in Africa. This means that the immense potential offered by the seas and oceans presents both challenges and enormous opportunities.

To read more please visit: <http://www.uneca.org/stories/tackling-maritime-related-issues-africa>

SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS & CONNECTIVITY

9. UNFCCC - Nations Meet in Bonn to Fully Implementing Paris Agreement

In a next round of UN climate change negotiations, nations have met 8th - 18th of May 2017 to further develop the guidelines needed to fully implement the landmark 2015 [Paris Climate Change Agreement](#) now and over the decades to come.

The [May meeting](#) is a staging-post for the annual climate change conference - COP23 - which will be held in November 2017 and the preparation of its key outcomes. The final budget is also set to be agreed at COP23.

Read more at: <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/nations-meet-in-bonn-to-take-forward-guidelines-for-fully-implementing-paris-agreement/>

10. UNESCAP - Reducing Infrastructure Gaps Can Boost Sustainable Development

The Access to Physical Infrastructure Index evaluates the condition of four infrastructure sectors, one of them transport, in 41 Asia-Pacific countries over time and finds uneven progress among the CSN group, with LDCs comprising 7 out of 10 poorest-performing countries.

Read more at: <http://www.unescap.org/news/reducing-infrastructure-gaps-can-boost-sustainable-development-countries-special-needs-says-un>

11. UNEP - Financial Institutions Set Standards for Financing Sustainable Development

Nearly 20 leading global banks and investors, totalling \$6.6 trillion in assets, launched the Principles for Positive Impact Finance - a first of its kind set of criteria for investments to be considered sustainable.

To read more please visit: <http://staging.unep.org/newscentre/default.aspx?DocumentID=27092&ArticleID=36343>

12. ADB President Calls for New Infrastructure Investment Long-Term Strategy

More investments in infrastructure are needed to support continued growth in Asia and the Pacific and combat climate change, Asian Development Bank (ADB) said at the 50th Annual Meeting of ADB's Board of Governors. Asia reportedly needs \$1.7 trillion per year in investments in power, transport, telecommunications, and water through 2030."

To read more please visit: <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-president-calls-new-infrastructure-investment-part-adbs-long-term-strategy>

13. China Invests \$124bn in Belt and Road Global Trade Project

China's President Xi Jinping has pledged \$124bn (£96bn) for the scheme, known as the Belt and Road initiative. "Trade is the important engine of economic development," Mr Xi said at a summit of world leaders in Beijing. The plan, which aims to expand trade links between Asia, Africa, Europe and beyond, was first unveiled in 2013. 60bn yuan (\$9bn; £7bn) will be given in aid to developing countries and international institutions that form part of the Belt and Road project.

For more details please visit: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-39912671>

14. UNECE Works with Government of Georgia to Improve Road Safety

The objective of the Workshop was to provide information, best practice and training in challenging areas identified in the Review: speed management, safer vehicles and combat against drunk driving. Back-to-

back with the policy dialogue, a capacity-building workshop on the pressing road safety topics identified by the Review was held.

To read more please visit: <https://www.unece.org/info/media/news/transport/2017/unece-works-with-government-of-georgia-to-improve-road-safety/doc.html>