

REVIEW

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THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND
FIATA'S SUCCESS** Dr Ivan Petrov

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**WHY SHOULD FREIGHT
FORWARDING AND LOGISTICS
COMPANIES SUPPORT THE YOUNG
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MASTHEAD

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FIATA REVIEW

FIATA's quarterly magazine presents a global outlook on freight forwarding and logistics, as well as the latest news from FIATA's secretariat and its members.

FIATA

Also known as the 'Architects of Transport', FIATA International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations is a non-governmental, membership-based organisation representing the freight forwarding industry in some 150 countries.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

EMPOWERING FIATA MEMBERS, THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND FIATA'S SUCCESS



Dear colleagues and friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the August edition of the FIATA Review magazine. As we delve into the pages of this edition, we celebrate the remarkable achievements and adaptations made by freight forwarders in the year 2023, but not only this! FIATA has come a considerable way in the last two years in terms of its key strategic goals. As of today, the FIATA Digital FBL has been distributed over 600 times, thanks to its implementation by [26 Association Members](#), and with the help of [23 software providers](#). This, alongside the ongoing work to digitalise other [FIATA Documents](#) for the freight forwarding sector, come in the aftermath of challenges in the last years, which I am confident we have overcome with great success!

I have enjoyed visiting several of our Association members in the last year, to mention but a few: Serbia, China, Uganda, Norway, India, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, South Africa, Vietnam and Portugal, which has enabled me to connect with the FIATA family and highlight the outstanding work achieved by those involved in FIATA's set-up since the Reset Programme. It was also a good opportunity to meet with new faces who we look forward to welcoming as FIATA Association Members!

One notable highlight in 2023 was the resounding success of the FIATA HQ Meeting. Building upon the achievements of the 2022 meeting, we witnessed an astounding 60% increase in in-person attendance. The interactive nature of this event allowed our esteemed members to engage in workshop-style sessions, fostering collaboration and exchange of ideas. The involvement of young professionals and innovative start-ups further enriched our discussions, inspiring us to embrace new technologies and adapt to evolving processes in the digital era. In our steps to optimise processes, we must also not forget how Artificial Intelligence will change our daily work as we know it. The outcomes of these sessions have provided invaluable direction to the work of FIATA Bodies, Institutes, and our headquarters.

As we forge ahead, FIATA's primary goal remains unwavering – to deliver exceptionally high-quality services to our members. This edition of

the FIATA Review will showcase the many value-adding initiatives tailored to the needs of its Members. From customs work to trade facilitation, safety and security updates to digital trade transformation, and updates on the FIATA Global Air Cargo Programme – we have left no stone unturned in providing you cutting-edge information. Regional-specific news and updates are also covered, ensuring we address the unique challenges faced by our Members in various parts of the globe and inspiring stories of young logistics professionals. This edition also highlights the upcoming 2023 FIATA World Congress 'The Changing Climate of Logistics' in Brussels, a platform that promises to be an exceptional opportunity for networking, knowledge-sharing, and exploring new horizons.

At FIATA, we believe in the power of communication and collaboration. We encourage all our members to stay up-to-date with FIATA's news channels and contribute by sharing their expertise whenever possible. Don't hesitate to reach out to us to do so!

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you, FIATA Members, for your unwavering support and dedication to FIATA's mission. Together, we will continue to overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and lead the freight forwarding industry towards a prosperous and sustainable future. ■

Sincerely
Dr Ivan Petrov
FIATA President

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ivan Petrov".



MARITIME

FIATA'S PURSUIT FOR FORWARDER-CENTRIC REFORMS

FIATA was one of the first movers from the industry to demystify the United States (US) Ocean Shipping Reform Act (OSRA) 2022 into industry-relevant takeaways with a dedicated guide for freight forwarders, available on the FIATA website. FIATA maintained this momentum in the past year, supporting the implementation of OSRA through the provision of global freight forwarding expertise from its Working Group Sea in the US-Federal Maritime Commission's (FMC) public consultations. FIATA's input addressed pressing issues including detention and demurrage billing practices and ocean carriers' refusal to deal or negotiate with respect to vessel space accommodations.

FIATA welcomes and supports the US-FMC's efforts to ensure fair play in accessing vessel space.

The FMC's Notice of Proposed Rule-making (NPRM) following its consultation pertaining to ocean carriers refusing to negotiate or allocate vessel space when available includes several positive elements for forwarders.

- "Unreasonable conduct" has been refined to encompass actions that excessively limit shippers' access to ocean carriage services including services

essential for accessing or booking vessel space, such as booking platforms, ensuring that shippers and forwarders face no undue restrictions when using relevant platforms.

- Concerns regarding vessel space accommodation may be addressed with the FMC in cases of carriers unreasonably denying space, both during negotiations and after service contracts have been established.
- Non-vessel operating common carriers (NVOCCs) are exempt from proposed provisions due to their lack of control over space accommodations.
- The FMC is considering enhancing transparency and oversight by monitoring the impact of blank sailings and disruptions on shipment acceptance, along with reviewing documented export policies filed by carriers including alternative remedies envisioned by them for denied space accommodations.

FIATA calls on the FMC to explicitly extend rights accorded to shippers to their forwarders too, limiting possible discrimination by vertically integrated carriers.

FIATA made a third submission to the US-FMC recently highlighting the reliance of shippers, especially SMEs on specialised freight forwarders' services and consolidation to remain competitive. FIATA sought explicit mention of "shippers and/or their authorised representatives" in the proposed rules. This inclusion ensures that representatives and forwarders, even as NVOCCs, possess the same rights as beneficial cargo owners (BCOs) for securing access to vessel and cargo space. This perspective gains significance amid dominant ocean carriers' vertical integration, which could unfairly disadvantage forwarders by leveraging their market power and antitrust immunity to restrict or refuse to offer space to a broad category of shippers, such as SMEs or NVOCCs, at either the negotiation or execution stage.

Besides championing regulatory reforms favourable to forwarders, FIATA underscores the significance of consistent communication among private-sector supply chain participants. Focusing on common concerns and synchronising efforts towards shared goals will help build an equitable and harmonised maritime supply chain that benefits all stakeholders involved. ■

MARITIME

CLEARING THE HAZE AROUND CLEAN SHIPPING: UPDATES FROM IMO-MEPC 80

The 80th session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) took place in July 2023 in London, shaping the trajectory of maritime decarbonisation towards net zero emissions by approximately 2050. Although the MEPC's primary focus is on the shipping sector, its decisions impact various stakeholders, including freight forwarders.

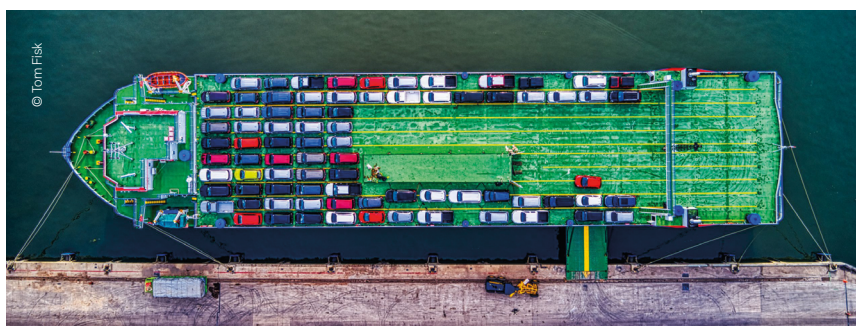
The MEPC's agenda centred around the IMO's greenhouse gas reduction strategy, highlighted by a draft Revised GHG Reduction Strategy and an accompanying MEPC Resolution. Emission reduction targets and established timelines were delineated. Medium-term measures included guidelines pertaining to a comprehensive Life Cycle Analysis of low- and zero-carbon fuels ensuring precise calculation of emissions throughout the lifecycle of these fuels, spanning production to utilisation. Notably, a Greenhouse Gas Fuel Standard, which seeks to progressively curtail carbon

content in marine fuels, compelling the transition to cleaner fuel alternatives was discussed. The Committee also introduced potential fiscal strategies, categorised as 'Market-based Measures' which encompass a GHG Levy founded on fuel carbon content, a Cap-and-Trade scheme requiring emission permits, and evolving incentive mechanisms. The MEPC noted support for developing nations, via technical assistance and financial aid for this transition.

The flexible wording of these provisions was perceived by many as falling short of the objectives set forth in the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the close of this century. Consequently, some regions, industries, and corporations are projected to adopt a swifter pace in their decarbonisation efforts, while others will be obligated to adhere to regulatory guidelines established by entities such as the IMO, ensuring a baseline collective endeavour to attain global climate targets.

Though immediate repercussions on freight forwarders may appear minimal, particularly in developing nations, transparency and information-sharing will be key to ensuring preparedness by freight forwarders, as well as a fair and effective transition as shipping lines aim to align with IMO standards. As noted in FIATA's dedicated multi-stakeholder panel on maritime decarbonisation at the FIATA HQ Meeting 2023, concerns have been raised regarding the potential impacts on capacity availability and possible cost implications such as surcharges linked to fluctuations in marine fuel prices and vessel upgrades. It will be important to ensure that freight forwarders are well-equipped with appropriate knowledge and resources in the interests of a level playing field, and so that they can serve their customers effectively.

FIATA, through its Working Group Sea, is working to ensure information-sharing and transparency on developments linked with maritime decarbonisation for forwarders and their clientele. The impending regulatory framework will exert influence on various facets of freight forwarding operations, from compliance and costs to operational and capacity management strategies and related partnerships. As an IMO Observer, FIATA, is well positioned to facilitate forwarders' awareness of IMO MEPC developments, enabling informed decisions and adaptation to the evolving landscape of the industry. ■



WHAT IS THE IMO AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR FIATA MEMBERS?

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations and the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping. Its main role is to create a global regulatory framework for the ship-

ping industry that is fair and effective, creating a level playing field whilst encouraging innovation and efficiency.

After several attempts to obtain observer status over many years, the IMO Council at its 129th session in 2023 agreed to grant FIATA consultative status on a provisional basis for 2 years, following which a review will be conducted. In accordance with the

IMO rules, this approval is subject to final decision by the IMO Assembly at the 33rd regular session, which is expected to take place from 27 November to 6 December 2023. In the meantime, FIATA will be invited to relevant meetings in its capacity as an observer. This is a significant achievement for FIATA and an important step to ensuring the vital freight forwarding and logistics voice is heard. ■

MARITIME

MARITIME ADVANCES AND HOW UNITED FIATA FREIGHT FORWARDERS CAN DRIVE CHANGE

FIATA interviewed Neil Taylor, FIATA Vice President and Working Group Sea delegate to get a clearer breakdown and overview of the latest FMC update and how it will impact FIATA Members.

As a long-term delegate of FIATA Working Group Sea, how do you perceive the latest FMC update on the Unreasonable Refusal to Deal?

This is a great opportunity for FIATA and the global freight forwarding sector to present forwarders' ongoing difficulties with carriers. The proposed rule is aimed at shipments in and out of the US, and there is a precedent that we forwarders can follow up and push to become a standard in our own regions. I believe this is an extraordinary step forward and chance for our community to work together under the umbrella of FIATA and push in all of our regions to make sure the conditions are met. We can highlight mistreatment in our local traffic lanes or refusals to deal, i.e. where carriers refuse to quote and assign space and bookings to the export cargo of West Coast South America (WCSA). As a result of this, carriers handle directly 85% of the export cargo of WCSA, not allowing forwarders to book to provide the shipping services needed by our exporters, especially the SMEs who do not have the capability to arrange transportation on their own.

As a freight forwarder in South America, why is this update important?

In the past, all regions have dealt with the carriers alone and have had to manage their own business, but here is a great chance to collate our efforts

under the umbrella of FIATA and take forward the issues affecting regions according to what the freight community of that region has achieved in relation to customs and carriers. We as ALOG in Chile have gone a long way and today are a key player for any multimodal decision-making here, often requested to participate in analyses and decisions in logistics and trade development. We believe this is a first step, and there are many to come in regards to automation, regulation and infrastructure.

I believe FIATA has a great team today and there is a huge amount of knowledge and know-how in our working groups and in the Federation, so it is a matter of focusing on the right objectives and working together to make things happen. With a clear strategy and right people, I believe we can turn a few tables which would allow FIATA to become a stronger player in our global business.

As a freight forwarder and FIATA Vice President, how do you see your commitment with FIATA's work and why is it important to participate?

I first attended the FIATA World Congress in Geneva in 2009 and was impressed with the contribution FIATA can bring to the South American region, after more than 10 years participating in the local freight forwarders association and on the board. I immediately

started to get involved in several working groups and dedicated time to bringing knowledge and expertise to help defend freight forwarders. If there is a will there is a way!

The role of FIATA globally to defend the interests of our beautiful activity is key, and there are a lot of teachings and useful exchanges when participating in the activities of FIATA around the world. That's why I also enjoyed participating in the field meetings of the FIATA RAP and RAME regions, which allow us to share challenges and experience in the development of common solutions. This is without mentioning the most important element in FIATA, which is the friendship with professionals in different countries and the enrichment that it brings us.

It is important that our members participate because the industry is today facing some big challenges that will impact our future existence and those of our small and medium-sized companies in a more digitalised and vertically integrated environment. As President of ALOG, our association has been very successful in its management, the development of our membership and resources to fund projects and the visibility towards the authorities. I see it as a duty to bring this expertise to FIATA for the best interest of all of its members and invite all of us to see how we can contribute to our collective success! ■



DIGITALISATION

FIATA JOINS WTO MSME GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON FACILITATING DIGITAL TRADE FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES



On 3 July, FIATA was invited to present its [FIATA Digital FBL and Digital Strategy](#) to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to become digital key players to the WTO MSME (Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) Group. The WTO MSME Group was established in December 2017 to explore ways in which WTO members could better support MSMEs' participation in global trade. Indeed, while 95% of companies across the globe are MSMEs, accounting for 60% of the world's total employment, small businesses face significant obstacles when seeking to participate in international trade. Cumbersome trade processes, in large part due to the prevalence of paper involved in trade, are among the top challenges that small businesses mention.

"Trade digitalisation can be a game changer for MSMEs" noted Emmanuelle Ganne, senior analyst in the Economic Research and Statistics Division of the WTO, and WTO lead on small businesses. "Accelerating the move to paperless trade requires a conducive regulatory framework that recognises e-documents. It also requires that all actors involved speak the same language.

Promoting the wide adoption of standards for trade documents is essential" she added.

Presenting the FIATA Digital Strategy to the WTO MSME Group was an opportunity to sensitise governments to the benefits of trade digitalisation for MSMEs, and the importance of promoting the adoption of global standards, such as the eFBL.

FIATA's Digital FBL is already enabling the seamless flow of trade, thanks to its implementation by 26 of FIATA's Association Members from around the world, supported by 23 software providers. At present, FIATA is also working to digitalise further trade documents in its [FIATA Documents](#) collection, used by the freight forwarding sector at large.

During the ICC World Chambers Congress, FIATA's Director General Stéphane Graber shared about the work of the FIT (Future International Trade) Alliance, of which FIATA is a member alongside BIMCO, DCSA, SWIFT, and ICC, to raise awareness and accelerate the adoption of digital standards. He also announced

the soon-to-be launched FIT Alliance declaration, which is a clear commitment to digitalisation from all stakeholders involved in international trade. By signing the FIT Alliance eBL Declaration, all stakeholders in international trade can publicly signal their readiness for change, and their commitment to collaborate to drive digitalisation, starting with eBLs, within their industries. ■



Emmanuelle Ganne
WTO

CUSTOMS

BRINGING FIATA MEMBERS TO THE HEART OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICYMAKING

Regular industry-government dialogue is crucial to finding appropriate solutions that facilitate trade and foster the essential activities of supply chain actors. As the global voice of the freight forwarding and logistics industry, FIATA is the principal bridge between industry expertise and governmental policymaking, a role that has only been strengthened following the 2020 move of the FIATA Headquarters to Geneva, home to the United Nations and other international organisations. Representing circa. 40,000 freight forwarders operating in all transport modes in some 150 territories around the world, FIATA is in the unique position to ensure knowledge sharing and best practices, and to have a holistic view of logistics supply chain activities. Through FIATA, freight forwarders in all territories have unparalleled access to international and regional policymaking activities.

A key example of this can be found in FIATA's longstanding work with the World Customs Organization (WCO). In addition to having permanent observer status, FIATA is part of the WCO Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG), which advises the WCO and its member governments on customs and international trade from the private sector perspective. Through FIATA's close partnerships with the WCO, FIATA was able to provide industry expertise and recommendations to the WCO and its members on key topics such as during the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a direct impact on governmental responses at the border.

Consistent dialogue and engagement with governmental authorities make industry consultation and collaboration

more instinctive. This is evident from the increased interactions between the WCO members and the PSCG. This year, the PSCG had the possibility to attend and interact at the WCO Permanent Technical Committee and Policy Commission meetings, two key decision-making organs within the WCO. FIATA, having led a sub-group within the PSCG on trade facilitation, presented the final outcomes of the work at those meetings, underlining the tangible measures that governments can take that would have the greatest impact at the border. FIATA was also pleased to present 2 positive case studies on trade facilitation from Mozambique and Zambia. In addition, the PSCG has been active in a number of other topics, including business continuity planning for customs authorities, providing recommendations on Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes, and providing perspectives on the review of the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards.

Building engagement with governments and participation in international fora has a direct impact on policies that affect the freight forwarding and logistics industry all over the world. FIATA Members enjoy the important member benefit of having FIATA as a direct interface with government bodies and international policymaking institutions. To leverage and harness this benefit, FIATA Association Members are recommended to ensure active participation in FIATA Institutes and Bodies, and to provide information on developments and challenges in their territories, in order to provide the input and expertise that FIATA can subsequently channel into the appropriate arena. ■



SAFETY AND SECURITY

CHALLENGES AND VISION OF SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR THE FIATA COMMUNITY

FIATA's Advisory Body on Safety and Security Chair, Niels Beuck, shares the latest on all things safety and security in the forwarding sector, including projects which the FIATA Body is currently working on for its members.

Organising safe and secure transport is the core competence of freight forwarders. They are trusted with valuable cargo due to their knowledge of rules and regulations, reliable services, and ability to organise secure supply chains across all modes of transport. Forwarders excel at crisis management when safety and security threats arise.

Cargo theft poses a considerable threat to supply chains, particularly on the road, and criminals particularly target high-value cargo, often escaping arrest. They steal anything from technological devices to cigarettes, pharma and even clothes. While crime rates decreased during the lockdowns of COVID-19, expecting a lasting decline in cargo theft would be wishful thinking. Criminals adapt by shifting to other crimes or countries with less pressure. However, the number of cases has also decreased in recent years due to forwarders implementing mitigation strategies such as reorganising logistics processes, investing in technology, and raising staff awareness.

Forwarders must consider additional, and sometimes more complex safety issues, especially when handling dangerous goods and substances. They have responsibilities and obligations when transmitting information to authorities and transport companies. **Awareness training should be part of their safety policy, and FIATA has updated its Dangerous Goods Brochure to provide a basic understanding and awareness of handling such goods.** Studying the brochure is the first step toward creating safer supply chains. FIATA's Advisory

Body on Safety and Security (ABSS) is also involved in discussions regarding the illicit transport of dangerous substances and is working towards making the supply chain a safer environment for the actors involved.

Cybersecurity poses an increasingly significant challenge for freight forwarders too. ABSS organised an expert panel at the latest HQ Meeting and is updating FIATA's cybersecurity guide to help members understand attack scenarios, mitigate risks, train personnel, and respond to attacks. Protecting vulnerable small and medium-sized companies is an absolute priority for FIATA.

Security regulations are integral to customs regimes worldwide, such as C-TPAT in the USA, PACT in Canada, and ICS2 in the European Union. The concept of a secure supply chain, based on risk analysis, strikes a balance between security and cargo flow. FIATA and its national member associations have collaborated with authorities, working towards globally harmonised data elements for customs use. ABSS is actively involved in the process and is drafting a standard bilateral agreement between airlines and forwarders to clarify each parties' duties in filing necessary data with customs, in collaboration with FIATA's Customs Affairs Institute (CAI) and Airfreight Institute (AFI).

Overall, safety and security challenges have increased in recent years, but forwarders are finding solutions for these challenges and ABSS will actively continue to work in this direction. ■



INTRODUCTION TO THE REGULATIONS FOR THE SAFE HANDLING AND TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS (3rd Edition)



AIRFREIGHT

FIATA ENGAGES WITH INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS IN HISTORIC ETHIOPIA VISIT

FIATA Airfreight Institute Chair Dawit Woubishet shares about the success of the EFFSAA-hosted FIATA Air Cargo Global Programme meeting and the first-ever FIATA visit to the association.

In July 2023, the Ethiopian Freight Forwarders and Shipping Agents Association (EFFSAA) had the pleasure of hosting FIATA's Director General, Dr Stéphane Graber, together with a delegation of FIATA representatives to the IATA-FIATA Consultative Council (IFCC), for a historic visit to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The visit included the first-ever workshop of the FIATA Air Cargo Global Programme, organised by the FIATA Airfreight Institute (AFI) and myself as AFI Chair. Significant progress was made, and I thank the team for their dedication and hard work towards the development of a Global Programme that can benefit all regions. As a re-

gion currently under outdated IATA cargo agency rules that do not reflect commercial realities, this marked a significant milestone. Hosting such a global event is also a great occasion for Ethiopia, and showcases Ethiopia's potential as a key player in the African air cargo market and an emerging hub for airfreight operations in Africa.

During their visit, the FIATA delegation had the opportunity to visit key facilities in Ethiopia, including the African Union Headquarters where EFFSAA hopes to host a FIATA World Congress in the near future. Various meetings were held with government officials, including the Ministry of Transport and Logistics, the Ethiopian Maritime Authority, the Ministry of Tourism, Ethiopia's Shipping and Logistics (ESL), and the Customs Commission. These meetings provided the opportunity for FIATA to engage on key issues on behalf of the

industry. All government institutions expressed their full support to FIATA, and to EFFSAA hosting a FIATA World Congress in Ethiopia.

FIATA also had the opportunity to congratulate the EFFSAA Train the Trainer (TOT) students who received their certificates. The training programme is essential to enhancing the professional skills of freight forwarders and logistics professionals in Ethiopia. Recognising these students' hard work and dedication boosts their confidence and motivates them to excel further in their careers. ■



Dr Stéphane Graber (FIATA), Dawit Woubishet, EFFSAA Vice-President and FIATA AFI Chair, and Bisrat G. Mariyam, Mgr. Pharma, Special & Express Cargo at Ethiopian Cargo

INNOVATION AND EFFICIENCY ON THE AGENDA IN REGION AFRICA

July 2023 marked the first visit in a FIATA Director General in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – a landmark moment! As a burgeoning airfreight hub in the African region, it was an excellent occasion for FIATA to engage with key stakeholders and better understand the needs of the region.



The 4th round of Training of Trainers (ToT) programme awarded participants, with Dr Stéphane Graber, FIATA Director General, Elizabeth Getahun, EFFSAA President, and Salahadin Khalifa, past RAME Chair.

FIATA had the opportunity to meet various representatives from the governmental authorities, as well as key industry players, allowing for exchange on FIATA's work and how FIATA can support the region's logistics supply chain. With innovation and efficiency firmly on the government agenda, the FIATA Digital Strategy and FIATA's ongoing work to digitalise FIATA transport documents and develop a trusted network were key topics. FIATA was pleased to note the strong dialogue established between public and private sector, and the strong support expressed towards FIATA's and EFFSAA's work.

The visit also brought together FIATA representatives to the IFCC to discuss possible solutions for the way forward towards a Global Air Cargo Programme.

Holding the workshop in Ethiopia was of great significance given the lack of evolution in the rules governing freight forwarders' and airlines' commercial relationships in the Region Africa Middle East, and the urgent need to bring modern and globally harmonised rules that are fit-for-purpose to meet the needs of the rapidly evolving airfreight market.

Last but not least, the FIATA Director General had the opportunity to visit Ethiopian Airlines' state-of-the-art cargo facilities at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, which was a great example of innovation and digitalization! It was also a prime hub for the region during the pandemic as the key facility for COVID vaccine distribution. FIATA thanks EFFSAA for their warm welcome and hospitality! ■

GLOBAL AIR CARGO PROGRAMME

FIATA'S RELENTLESS COMMITMENT TOWARDS A GLOBAL AIR CARGO PROGRAMME

Keshav Tanna, delegate of FIATA's Airfreight Institute and member of the IATA-FIATA Consultative Council, was asked to tell us more about the evolution of FIATA's work with airline-carrier programmes, including the latest work towards a Global Air Cargo Programme.

You have been involved for many years in the work towards modernising the framework governing airline-forwarder relationships. Could you tell us more?

The Cargo Agency Modernisation Programme (CAMP) started many years ago as forwarders' relationship with airlines had evolved from a Principal-Agent to a Principal-Principal relationship, the forwarders now being the customers, rather than agents. 3 years and 24 meetings later the CAMP Working Group completed its project, and IATA and FIATA signed a Cooperation Agreement at the 2016 Dublin FIATA World Congress to take the new IATA-FIATA Cargo Agency Programme (IFACP) forward.



Pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement, the IATA-FIATA Governing Board (IFGB) held a series of meetings to put the Programme in motion. These meetings achieved great success, completing almost 95% of the work in the first 8 or so meetings. There was only one obstacle regarding a liability issue which neither the airlines nor forwarders could solve. The IFGB hit a roadblock in their last 4 meetings, and consequently, IATA terminated the Cooperation Agreement with FIATA. This is where the matter stands today.

Could you tell us about the ongoing work towards a Global Air Cargo Programme, and why it is important?

Though IATA terminated the IFACP Cooperation Agreement due to an impasse, FIATA, through its Airfreight Institute (AFI), will not give up on this goal. It is a key priority and we must continue working on it with our airline colleagues who also recognise this reality. FIATA continues to work with its team of forwarder representatives and observers to the IATA-FIATA Consultative Council (IFCC) to exchange ideas/possibilities to revitalise this project and look after our members' interests all over the world. In short, we will not stop as this is the future!

Why is it particularly important for Regions Asia-Pacific (RAP) and Africa and Middle East (RAME)?

RAP and RAME have been and still are under the legacy IATA Programme per Cargo Agency Conference (CAC) Resolution 801. Under this circa. 50-year-old Agency Programme, the Agent has no voice and is merely an agent of the airline – this does not reflect the business environment which exists today and hence is no longer fit for purpose. The European and Canadian regions meanwhile evolved to hybrid intermediary programmes under CAC Resolutions 805zz and 803 where the intermediary's (agent) voice can be heard to a certain extent by a Regional Joint Council. These programmes remain under the CAC's purview, however, and recent resolution changes have weakened the ability for this voice to be heard. This process is totally lacking in RAP and RAME, hence the extreme urgency for modernisation.

You recently participated in FIATA's Global Programme workshop in Ethiopia as FIATA's RAP representative to the IFCC. How did it go, and what was your feeling from the discussions and the progress achieved?

The Ethiopia meeting was a big success in terms of putting the ball back in motion, and many ideas were shared on the way forward. Our first goal is to put this item up for discussion on the agenda at the next CAC meeting in March 2024 with tangible solutions to resolve the impasse. FIATA's AFI Chair and Director General will seek an audience during this otherwise closed-door meeting. We wish them success and thank our AFI Chair on hosting a successful AFI Meeting in Ethiopia. ■



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LIFE OF A FREIGHT FORWARDER

ECX GLOBAL LOGISTICS PRESIDENT TAKES US THROUGH HIS FASCINATING JOURNEY IN LOGISTICS

FIATA interviewed Carlo Paravani, ECX Global Logistics President, in this edition's Life of a Freight Forwarder! Read about his adventurous journey from military service to logistics, and everything in between!

How did you become a freight forwarder?

My passion for cargo was born during my military service as a first airman in the Italian Air Force, stationed at the NATO air base in Sigonella, Sicily. There, I witnessed complex cargo movements, equipment and troop handling operations by air, sea and land on a daily basis.

Before and after my military service, I started a career in the world of high fashion, while maintaining my passion for freight transport. At the age of 24, I left my hometown Rome to move to New York, United States, taking with me only 200 USD, an Italian-English dictionary (since I still didn't speak English) and great determination. It was tough at first: I started as a warehouse clerk and later held the position of import clerk at a prestigious fashion house in New York. Later, I worked with a cargo handling company at JFK airport, and then became a flight planner at Alitalia JFK.

Over the years, I've channeled that passion into a tangible endeavor. In 1990, I co-founded my first freight forwarding company, an experience that helped

sharpen my skills. Although I sold the company in 1996, the desire to realize my entrepreneurial vision was unstoppable. In 1997, together with a partner, I set up Euro Cargo Express, known as ECX Global Logistics. Every step of this journey has contributed to my dedication to this industry. The shipments managed, the challenges overcome, and the opportunities created have fueled my passion and determination. Looking to the future, I am grateful for the journey thus far and look forward to the challenges facing our profession.

Describe roughly a typical week for you

Life as a shipper is full of spontaneity, where every day is unique and unrepeatable. Accurate planning of goods, documents and information plays a crucial role in facilitating our work. However, in the fascinating world of logistics, unforeseen events can always cause delays in the progress of shipments. For this reason, a detailed level of control is essential. We operate when our customers rest, representing a fundamental piece of the supply chain. In our sector, monotony is non-existent; each day has its own unique story to tell. Working in freight transport is like running in a marathon, where, from the moment the goods reach our hands, we do our utmost to plan, prevent, execute and monitor every shipment, whether by sea, air or land. Our task does not only end with delivery to customers' warehouses,

but also includes the efficient return of equipment to the various carriers.

What are the main challenges you see today for air freight/freight?

The predominant challenges we face include the unpredictability of the market, cybersecurity, terrorism, infrastructure evolution and the complex global geopolitical situation. We also need to tackle crucial issues such as human rights and the impact of climate change with determination. These obstacles represent challenges that we cannot avoid, but which we face head on with determination in our daily work.

What can FIATA do for its members, particularly in the air transport sector?

As a global organisation, FIATA plays a key role in giving a voice to all shipping professionals internationally. Its function as a liaison with governmental and non-governmental organizations is essential in addressing global challenges and opportunities. FIATA has a role to play to offer a wide range of resources and educational courses to raise the skills and qualifications of the profession, through different channels, and could offer specific certifications for different types of goods as well as dangerous goods. FIATA could actively promote networking to share experiences and knowledge, and provide up-to-date information on regulatory changes affecting the industry. ■

INDUSTRY FACTS & FIGURES

SINCE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AT GLOBAL LEVEL SEES STEADY PROGRESS

Despite supply chain disruptions and geopolitical uncertainty, the world continues to move towards a more streamlined and efficient trade facilitation environment.

According to the United Nations’ fifth global survey on digital and sustainable trade facilitation, (<https://www.untfsurvey.org/>) the implementation rate of both general and digital trade facilitation measures has increased by more than 16% since the 2017 entry of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), and has increased 6% alone since 2021, with the current global average being at 68.7%.

The survey, which has been carried out biennially since 2015, analyses the progress of trade facilitation across 161 countries worldwide. The survey covers TFA implementation, and a set of some 60 additional trade facilitation measures. The TFA measures

include transparency, formalities, institutional arrangement and co-operation, and transit. Other elements beyond TFA include cross-border paperless trade, trade facilitation for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), agricultural trade facilitation, women in trade facilitation, and more.

Developed economies have the highest implementation rate overall, of around 85%, whereas unsurprisingly, the implementation rate of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) stands at around 51%. These countries have consistently requested assistance to implement trade facilitation reforms. Concerning different types of trade facilitation measures, countries scored highest in efforts to enhance transparency, with an implementation rate of nearly 80%.

With digitalisation on the rise, paperless trade implementation has improved the most over the past two years, not

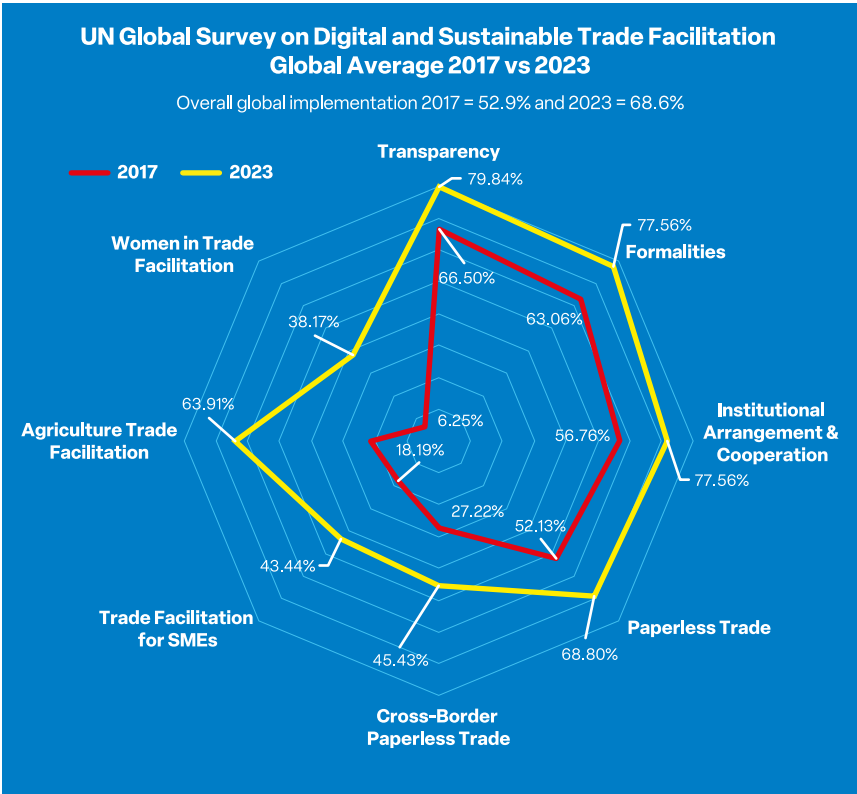
least spurred on by the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, averaging globally at 68.8%. Cross-border paperless trade measures, however, still have a low adoption rate, with a global average of around 45%, which clearly indicates the combined challenges of cross border coordination and digitalisation, two of the most challenging elements in trade facilitation implementation. The survey also highlights substantial improvements in areas such as e-transaction laws and electronic exchange of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) certificates.

The survey shows progress in trade facilitation measures benefiting SMEs and the agricultural sector. Globally, SMEs on average have implemented around 43% of trade facilitation measures. The average rate for agricultural entities was nearly 64%. Progress on trade facilitation measures for female traders is rather slow. Reducing gender inequalities remains a challenge, as the global average implementation rate continued to hover below 40% for measures related to women in trade facilitation.

UNCTAD is involved in all areas of assistance regarding trade facilitation implementation and reforms, particularly in relation to coordination and digitalisation, placing emphasis on inclusive policies, with a view to establishing a trade landscape that benefits everyone and leaves no one behind. It also consistently calls for greater private sector and SME participation in National Trade Facilitation Committees, also highlighted through FIATA’s work.

For more information, follow these links <https://unctad.org/tf> and <https://asycuda.org> ■

Poul Hansen and Clariesse Chan
UNCTAD, TF@unctad.org



FIATA REGIONS

BRAZIL ALERT – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW BRAZIL CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Dear member,

As of 1 July, freight forwarders should change their import process when sending goods into Brazil, in alignment with new Customs regulations. The Cargo and Transit Control (CCT) Import System is a 'new system of the “Portal Único de Comércio Exterior” (Foreign Trade Single Portal) for the control of cargo and transit in imports that will progressively replace the Mantra System.'

All cargo records are now to be performed only on the CCT import system. Non-scheduler flights will remain on the Mantra system. Training on using the system can be found [here](#).

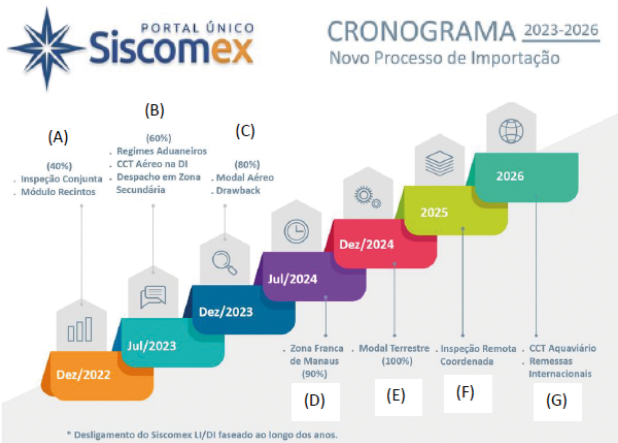
For further clarification, kindly shared by the FIATA Brazilian Association, Associacao Nacional Das Empresas Transitarías, Agentes De Carga Aerea, Comissarias De Despachos e Operadores Intermodais - ACTC, please [click here](#).

For news coverage on the topic, please click here.

If you would like to watch a video about the new system, please flash the QR code. English subtitles can be enabled by clicking on the 'Settings Wheel' at the bottom right of the video > Subtitles > Auto-Translate > Choose your language. ■



Scan the QR code for
watch the video



WELCOMING THE WORLD TO EUROPE FOR THE 2023 FIATA WORLD CONGRESS!

FIATA Region Europe Chair, Antonella Straulino, shares on the importance of FIATA's members gathering in Europe this year for the FIATA World Congress.

The World Congress in Brussels is quickly approaching! I want to spend these few lines underlining the importance of attending our annual gathering, this year probably more than ever. The HQ Meetings in Geneva already clearly demonstrated topics discussed, high level panelists and workshops were indeed worth participating, as it will be the case for the congress, no doubt, also because we'll be based at the very heart of the European Union.

I already stressed how much Europe is central for our industry: when it comes to the EU, in Brussels we will have the possibility to interact with policymakers, other stakeholders and with institutions. Moreover, Brussels is home of the World Customs Organization, and I do not need to tell you the deep and beneficial interactions FIATA itself also has from this.

The FIATA World Congress in our Region is a magnificent opportunity for each one of us for enhancing knowledge, and relationships, who will have the chance to get in touch with the “governance” of the EU, but the main reason to attend this congress is to show how strong our industry is: I urge you all to be part of this.

I already envisage a top-quality congress: I know those not participating will be missing something they will regret. We will have to virtually meet and talk (also about the many chances the FWC is giving) in the next REU meeting in August.

See you in Brussels! ■



For the latest FIATA REU update on greenhouse gases and sustainability goals, scan the QR Code.

FIATA REGIONS

RAME FIELD MEETING UNITES NATIONS

The theme of this year’s FIATA Region Africa Middle East (RAME) field meeting “Resilience, Adaptability, and Diversity in Global Supply Chains”, held in Uganda in August 2023 under the auspices of FIATA’s Association Member UFFA, captured the spirit of the new order in the supply chain! With over 250 logistics professionals from all over Africa in attendance, it was a great opportunity to meet real people after the pandemic, and exchange expertise.

The supply chain has exposed its weaknesses in recent years, with circumstances such as pandemic and war, which has demonstrated a need to not only focus on supply patterns, but also consider demand patterns to nurture resilience and adaptability.

The ongoing implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) remains crucial to strengthening the logistics supply chain in Africa, and FIATA RAME continues to work to facilitate this, with the support of its dedicated AfCFTA representative. Connectivity is crucial, and collaboration will be important to ensure the successful development of corridors, such as the North-South Corridor. As discussed during the RAME meeting with regard to the FIATA Digital Strategy, digitalisation will be an important means to further optimise the supply chain, such as the use of artificial intelligence and new technologies.

It is important that all forwarders in the region continue to leverage FIATA RAME to raise their voice so that FIATA can find appropriate and tailor-made solutions that address the respective challenges of the industry in the region. ■

Recent AfCFTA reports can be accessed via the QR codes below.

April/May Report



June Report



FIATA RAP MEETING BRINGS OVER 250 PARTICIPANTS TOGETHER IN DA NANG!

FIATA Region Asia-Pacific delegate Iman Gandhi Mihardja tells us more about the outcomes of the 2023 FIATA RAP Field Meeting and shares on next year’s edition, organised by ILFA.

Mr Iman Gandhi Mihardja, during this year’s FIATA RAP Meeting, ILFA won the bid to organise the next FIATA RAP Field Meeting in Bali. What should delegates expect from this meeting?

The primary objective of the meeting is to provide FIATA RAP members an update from FIATA HQ on what is happening in FIATA worldwide from a global market point of view, and simultaneously provide exchanges and insight from peer members in the region about growing their businesses. The meeting will enable showcasing of solutions and common challenges among members. Such circumstances will bring a spirit of union in business associations and support on how to remain competitive in an increasingly complex and evolving global market. The above circumstances put forward a value of being FIATA members with real benefits for business and association growth. And of course, the ambient of Bali will stimulate a productive business meeting in world class leisure surroundings.

As Deputy Chair International Relations and Capacity Building at ILFA, what were your main takeaways from this year’s FIATA RAP Field Meeting?

We were amazed at how VLA organised the meeting, and it set a new bar of standard for future RAP meetings. It allowed productive interaction among the members in a special session of B2B meetings. Moreover, support from government officials in most sessions was shown. We also saw the involvement of the FIATA HQ team more than ever, a good sign which was appreciated.

As a member of FIATA RAP, what do you see as the first priority for the region?

On many occasions, our RAP Chair has been consistently stating the importance of collaboration and promotion of business within the region. It is of no doubt that the RAP region is the centre of future global economy growth. Being a key stakeholder in the global economy, FIATA members should be ready and gear up. So, the priorities of FIATA RAP should be:

- Expanding the organisation network of membership in more countries
- Facilitating its members toward business collaboration
- Promoting FIATA global program to all members, and encouraging more participation (meetings, capacity building, eB/L, etc) ■

INDUSTRY VOICES

PASSION DRIVES SUCCESS



Lea Walther

What made you decide to start a career in the logistics sector?

Fascination. When I was a kid, I was always captivated by planes and all the activities at the airport. Obviously, the cargo sector was not on my mind earlier since I had no personal connection to it, despite the fact that I consumed all items that were not manufactured in my native country, Germany. In my world 'whatever we did not have at home came from the grocery store'. However, my imagination evolved as I grew older. I began to wonder how all those fruits, affordable clothing, and electronic devices, as well as practically everything else, got to the stores where I could buy them. When the COVID-19 outbreak occurred, the transportation of vaccines and other medical supplies was crucial. At that time, logistics caught my interest and won my greatest respect. The best part was that I could combine it with my fascination for aviation.

What does your role entail as Head of Process Development in the Air Cargo Community Frankfurt?

Essentially, our association's mission is reflected by expanding and improving the performance of Frankfurt Airport so that handling cargo via Frankfurt is simple, quick, and of excellent quality. As Head of Process Development, I set up projects that dive deeply into certain cargo procedures at Frankfurt Airport. That being said, I am in charge of managing process-oriented projects from kick-off to completion, including the formation of a project team and the achievement of each milestone until the concept for altering the present procedure is accomplished. It's intriguing since the project teams consist of various company representatives of our community, each with a unique point of view. Bringing them all together and finding a solution that they all agree on can be challenging. This, however, is precisely what makes it so interesting and exhilarating. The best thing about it: I keep learning constantly about all the procedures on the cargo side and how the various parties interact.

As someone who has experienced great success in logistics as a young professional, what would you say is the key to succeeding?

This question takes me back to my time as a shift manager at Amazon Logistics. "Learn and be curious" was my favourite of Amazon's leadership principles. Children have the ability to be fascinated by practically everything, which allows them to learn new things continuously. They always question WHY, rather than simply repeating the same pattern. What we can learn from youngsters is equally applicable to our professional lives: we must be and, more importantly, stay curious. Otherwise, how should we progress, both personally and professionally? If we get the feeling that we are stuck somewhere and the road leads to a dead end, we should seek for a new route, which demands courage. Having stated that, I would like to encourage anyone being stuck in their job position and missing growth to step out, be curious and find a new opportunity to learn. Combining that with your passion will lead to long-term professional success. ■

YOUNG LOGISTICS PROFESSIONALS

WHY SHOULD FREIGHT FORWARDING AND LOGISTICS COMPANIES SUPPORT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS?

Why is it important for your company to support the FIATA YLP and German YFFA?

At EgeTrans, the promotion of talents is not just an empty phrase, but a declared corporate goal. It is important for us to convey to our talents that learning does not end with training, but goes far beyond it (life-long learning.) The recent past has shown that flexibility is a key competence in order to cope with constantly changing conditions in the logistics market. Competitions such as the FIATA YLP or German YFFA are an excellent way to demonstrate flexibility in practice.

As the mentor of the German Young Freight Forwarder Award winner, what do you see as the main challenges for the young logisticians who participate in the competition?

In order to be able to solve such a complex logistical task, the entire spectrum of learned expertise must be applied. In the German competition, there were very different aspects such as customs formalities, hazardous goods regulations or the combination of several modes of transport that had to be considered. Added to this is the nervousness of having to present all this in front of a jury of experts.

What would you say to encourage other freight forwarding companies to engage in supporting YLP candidates nationally and regionally?

Participating in the competition is a nice way to give your own junior staff additional room for personal and professional growth. In addition, it is simply a great experience that will take them further. ■



From left: Kathrin Woelper, Stéphanie Graber, Laura Egerer, Tatjana Kronenbürger

FIATA interviewed Kathrin Woelper, HR Manager and Laura Egerer, German YFFA Winner and Import and Custom Specialist, both at EgeTrans, to hear more from an HR and young logistics professional perspective on logistics careers.

WHY JOIN THE LOGISTICS INDUSTRY AS A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL? LAURA EGERER TELLS US MORE!

What made you want to work in the logistics sector?

Before entering the world of freight forwarding and logistics, I was studying political science and economics. Even though I am immensely interested in these topics, I realised that I wasn't happy with learning theory alone, with no practical application.

I left university to pursue a dual education, going to both school and work within the field of my studies. Through an education fair, I stumbled upon the logistics sector. The description of the work seemed to combine my skills in organisation and planning while also catering to my interest in economics.

How did you get to where you are today? What kind of challenges did you have to overcome?

Freight forwarding soon became a passion of mine and I realised how rewarding it is to be part of something "bigger" – the influence transport can have on globally connected supply chains is incredible. The most challenging part is that there is no one right way to do logistics – it always depends on the given situation. You never stop learning, there are always advancements to be made and opportunities for optimisation, and you must keep on top of international developments, pushing yourself so as to not get too comfortable with your own level of knowledge.

What piece of advice would you give to potential young logistics professionals who want to enter their national awards, with a view to becoming global FIATA YLP Award winners?

Taking part in the German Young Freight Forwarder Award and ultimately winning it, has been an incredible experience that has given me a chance to expand and develop my knowledge and creativity, working on a solution to the logistical problems we were presented with. I can only encourage any industry young professionals to take part in this unmissable program. ■

FIATA MEMBERSHIP

WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD WITH FIATA’S MEMBERS?



From left: Ery Bautista / Commercial Manager of the Central American Port Operator (OPO), Luis Hernández / President of AHACI, Victoria Navas / Head of the Authorized Economic Operator Unit (OEA) Honduran Customs Administration, Luis Renella / Director of Operations of the World Basic Organization, Jean Elie / Assistant Director of Business Development at Port Everglades

ASOCIACION HONDURENA DE AGENCIAS DE CARGA Y LOGISTICA INTERNACIONAL – AHACI

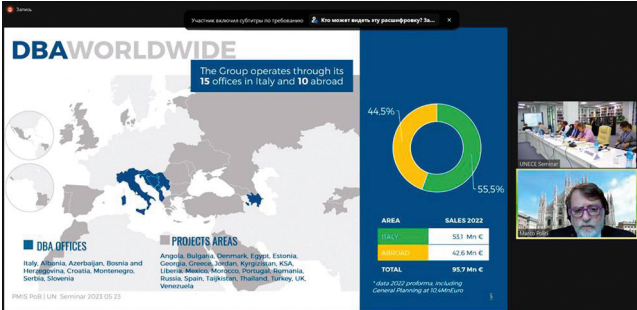
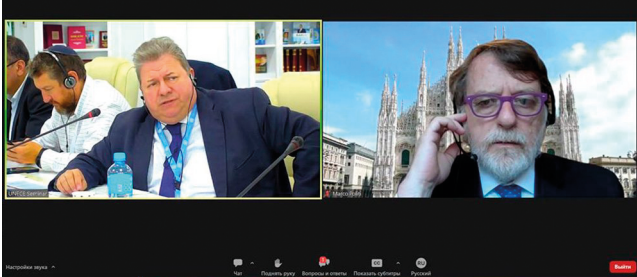
On 18-19 May, the 5th Edition of Agromercados was held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras with the participation of 250 companies presenting their products, 1200 confirmed business appointments and the presence of missions from 20 countries. AHACI was a Co-Organiser of this 5th edition, organising the two logistics sector master conferences: The future of Agro Logistics was the theme of the first conference, and Security and Trade Facilitation the last conference, also addressing the issue of the Authorized Economic Operator. National and international panelists participated in both conferences, which were moderated by Luis Hernandez, President of AHACI. ■

ASSOCIACAO NACIONAL DAS EMPRESAS TRANSITARIAS, AGENTES DE CARGA AEREA, COMISSARIAS DE DESPACHOS E OPERADORES INTERMODAIS – ACTC

The Foreign Trade Single Portal (PUCOMEX) is the Brazilian system for the registration of import and export processes. Looking for updates according to the demands and changes in the area, the national Federal Revenue has developed new solutions for the system, aiming to improve the agility and efficiency of sector activities. Currently, the CCT module, which intends to establish a single cargo control for all modes, is about to be implemented for air transport. Using risk management and information technology tools, the called Air CCT aims to ensure more agility and security to logistical workflows of international trade at the country's airports. The module will use the international standard for sending electronic information developed by IATA and one of its main objectives is to reduce the average time for cargo clearance by 80%. ■

ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSPORT, FREIGHT FORWARDING AND LOGISTICS ORGANIZATIONS IN UKRAINE - UKRZOVNISHTRANS

On 22 May, the 14th seminar on 'Trade facilitation and digital transformation of multimodal information exchange in Eastern Europe and SPECA using UN standards' was held in Baku under the auspices of the UNECE, organised in cooperation with UKRZOVNISHTRANS, UNECE and the Institute of Management Systems under the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The following issues were discussed: the possibilities for multimodal transportation today; Electronic documents for multimodal transportation; Pilot projects for implementation of standards, for example, eCIM/SMGS. Speakers from additional international organisations UNCEFACT, OSZ, TRACECA, UIC, ESCAP, government of Azerbaijan representatives, experts from Ukraine, Turkey, Georgia, Kazakhstan and other countries, were presented at the seminar. ■



ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING AND LOGISTICS SERVICE PROVIDERS – UTIKAD

UTIKAD signed up for the United Nations Global Compact agreement in 2015 as a confirmation of its full support to sustainability efforts in the logistics industry, and published the Communication on Engagement Report for the fourth time in April 2023. In the report, the responsibilities undertaken in line with the 10 basic principles of the Global Compact, the activities of UTIKAD's Working Groups and Focus Groups, vocational trainings and corporate responsibility activities of the 2021-2023 reporting period are covered. ■





ASSOCIATION OF LOGISTICS AND FREIGHT FORWARDING OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC – ZLZ SR
ZLZ SR was founded in 1992 as a non-governmental organisation that brings together important logistics and forwarding companies in Slovakia. In cooperation with the University of Žilina, ZLZ SR provides vocational education for its members. In recent years, professional training sessions were held online on various current topics: transportation of dangerous goods, INCOTERMS® 2020, CMR Convention and others. In May 2023, ZLZ SR participated in the international fair 'Transport and Logistics Munich 2023' and promoted its members. Many thanks to all who helped with the promotion of the Slovak logistics and forwarding industry. ■



DSLV BUNDESVERBAND SPEDITION UND LOGISTIK E.V.
DSLV organised a high-level panel discussion on 11 May 2023 at 'Transport and Logistics Munich 2023'. DSLV Director General Frank Huster moderated the session with industry and academic experts. Despite uncertain economic and political data, the demand for skilled workers and qualified employees remains high, concluded the panel. Demographic trends in particular are working against growth industries such as logistics. Companies are coming under increasing pressure because they can no longer meet their staffing needs. But logistics does not have to lose out to other sectors in the competition for qualified staff. People are the company, so the sector has it in its own hands to overcome

these challenges. "Alongside the implementation of sustainability goals, increasing digitalisation and automation, human resources management has long been the supreme discipline in the strategy process of logistics companies. Forwarding and logistics companies are a modern, innovative and international service industry with a wide range of career opportunities. Logistics is brimming with creativity, dynamism, a focus on the future and a willingness to invest in making work more attractive", Huster concluded. ■

ESTONIAN LOGISTICS & FREIGHT FORWARDING ASSOCIATION – ELFA

"It is our great honor to inform you that on 31 May 2023, the new ELFA logo went LIVE and the new ELFA website www.elea.ee has been completed. Now you can read us conveniently via smart devices and join ELFA even faster and more conveniently. This has all been necessary in order to provide an even better image and service both to members and outside the organisation", said Head of ELFA, Herkki Kitsing. In summary, it can be said that the renewal of the brand was necessary to ensure the long-term success of the association and to maintain competitiveness." added ELFA Council Chair Toomas Orutar. ■



LATVIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREIGHT FORWARDERS AND LOGISTICS - LAFF

LAFF has decided to prioritise the development of the electronic consignment note system, or e-CMR, to simplify logistics operations. The paper-based consignment notes will be all-digitalised. It will be much easier to create, retrieve and store them. The e-CMR platform will also facilitate real-time communication while reducing the need for physical paper, helping the environment and fulfilling sustainability goals. LAFF aims to have the e-CMR platform operational by the end of 2023. This marks a significant move towards more digitised logistics and highlights LAFF's commitment to modernising the industry. ■

VIETNAM LOGISTICS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION - VLA

VLA hosted the FIATA Region Asia Pacific Field Meeting and 'ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations (AFFA) Mid-Year Meeting' in Danang City, Vietnam from 13 to 15 July 2023. 18 November will see the 30 year Anniversary of VLA, formerly known as Vietnam Freight Forwarders Association (VIFFAS). VLA and VINEXAD co-host the first Vietnam International Logistics Exhibition in 2023 (VILOG 2023) from 10 to 12 August 2023 at Hall B, Saigon Exhibition & Conven-

tion Center (SECC), 799 Nguyen Van Linh, Dist. 7, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Exhibit profile: Transport & Forwarding, Warehouse & Loading, Packaging & Cold Storage, Services & Application of Logistics digital transformation. For more, contact vla-hcm2@vla.com.vn; vla-hn02@vla.com.vn; expo@vinexad.com.vn; or visit the website: www.vilog.vn. ■

FREIGHT FORWARDING ASSOCIATION OF AZERBAIJAN – FFAA

On 2 June, 2023, the 1st Caspian Transport and Logistics Forum was held, organised by the Association of Azerbaijan Transport Forwarding Companies. The opening session was attended by officials of the Ministry of Transport, State Customs Committee, Ministry of Economy, and TRASECA, as well as other officials. In the first panel, Azerbaijan State Railways, SAAAR, Silk Way West Airline, AZAL, Asco and Baku International Trade Port – which form a part of the transport infrastructure of Azerbaijan – gave information about the current situation and plans for future developments. The second panel was attended by FIATA, TITR, ABADA, and Transit Committee. Discussions covered the ancient Silk Road linking the East and the West, development perspectives, and the harmonisation of laws, as well as current topics such as digitisation. Particular attention was paid to the benefits of establishing a regional hub in Azerbaijan for such global marketplaces as Amazon and Alibaba. The third panel, which covered the development of human resources, the importance of increasing professional knowledge and skills, and information about the work to be done in this direction, was attended by Educa LLC, accredited by CILT, Azerbaijan Technical University, and the FIATA Director General Stéphane Graber. ■



HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF FREIGHT FORWARDING AND LOGISTICS LTD - HAFFA

HAFFA held its Annual General Meeting on 25 April 2023 in physical form for the first time in three years. There, incumbent HAFFA Chair Mr Gary Lau was re-elected for the 2023-2025 two-year term. In his address, Mr Lau outlined a number of significant issues on which the Association has successfully campaigned on behalf of its members. The full list of HAFFA Executive Committee elected for the term 2023-2025 is available on the portal page of our website <https://www.haffa.com.hk/portal>. ■



INTERNATIONAL FORWARDERS AND CUSTOMS BROKERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA – IFCBAA

The annual IFCBAA National Conference was held at the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort on the Gold Coast, QLD, Australia on 19-20 May 2023. With over 250 delegates, speakers, sponsors and partners in attendance, IFCBAA National Conference was a resounding success and was highly acclaimed by delegates, sponsors and speakers. In addressing the Conference theme, 'Facing the Future Together - Government & Industry Resilience' the regulators and key industry stakeholders recognised the need for Government and industry partnership and IFCBAA was acknowledged as the industry association that the regulators will work closely with in the future to deliver on regulatory reforms and implementation of emerging technologies. The key speakers addressed hot topics in the supply chain, with focus on a future-ready workforce, customer demands, technology, increased trade volumes, shipping costs, container shortages, supply chain congestion, legal obligations, cybersecurity and the importance of preparing the industry for future generations to join. ■



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

TRACKING FIATA’S PROGRESS AT THE 2023 STATUTORY GENERAL MEETING

Following the decision of the 2022 Annual General Meeting to hold biannual General Meetings, FIATA held its 2023 Statutory General Meeting on 30 June 2022. FIATA’s President Ivan Petrov noted the centrality of FIATA’s members in shaping the agendas and outcomes of the Federation, including the progress made by the Maritime Taskforce and digital FBL implementation.

130 participants across 56 territories followed the Federation’s progress

in 2022 at this meeting and financial matters were approved, including the adoption of the 2024 budget. A motion to reflect the adaptation of the working language of the FIATA Statutes to ensure consistency in the ultimate source of reference for the Federation was also passed. Hanoi, Vietnam was confirmed as the host of the 2025 FIATA World Congress which celebrates the Federation’s 99-year anniversary. Asociacion Peruana De Agentes De Carga Internacional

-APACIT- from Peru, on its 50th anniversary, was welcomed as the newest FIATA Association, adding 91 member companies to the 40,000 businesses FIATA represents.

The biennial Electoral General Meeting is set to take place in conjunction with the FIATA World Congress in Brussels on 6 October for the elections of Presidency and Extended Board members, as well as Chairs of the FIATA Institutes and Bodies. ■

2023 HQ MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



For summaries of this year’s extraordinary event, which brought together 190 participants from 60 countries, in 30 hours of sessions, scan this QR code!







MEETINGS AND EVENTS

THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL TRADE

The International Chambers of Commerce's (ICC) 13th World Chambers Congress (WCC) held in Geneva, to which FIATA participated as a silver sponsor, showcased digitalisation as a focal challenge and opportunity for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to integrate bottom-up into global trade and value chains.

Against this backdrop, FIATA's Digital Strategy and its participation in multi-stakeholder initiatives such as the ICC Digital Standards Initiative (DSI) are of crucial relevance. The DSI aims to digitalise global trade by aligning and promoting the adoption of digital standards and practices for the benefit of businesses, governments, and individuals worldwide. The DSI Industry Advisory Board (IAB), of which FIATA is part, brings together key organizations from the private and public sectors involved in advancing digital trade across all regions, sectors, and supply chain functions. The IAB provides a neutral platform to align digital trade data, practices, and standards and coordinate their adoption in international supply chains, with two working groups established to advance this effort on: (1) Key Trade Documents and Data Elements (KTDDE), and (2) Trusted Technology Environment (TTE).

The KTDDE working group, in which FIATA participates, has produced its first recommendations for 7 key trade documents (March 30, 2023) of the 40 documents under study. The objective is to promote adoption of digital standards for the benefit of industry and access to a trusted network. This exercise builds upon this method by continuing the digitalisation of key trade documents, ensuring that almost

all documents from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and World Trade Organisation's (WTO) paperless trade toolbox are effectively aligned, and ready for implementation.

In particular, the KTDDE workflow promotes interoperability of digital trade documents and the definitions of key data elements they contain. With approximately four billion pages circulating in documentary trade, this is a challenging task. There are clear efficiency, speed, and transparency benefits to digitalising the global trading system, with the potential to unlock huge cost savings. The ongoing work emphasizes the need for harmonization, standardization, and legal recognition of the equivalence between paper and electronic documents. In this effort, promoting the adoption of global standards, ensuring alignment of data definitions, and fostering coordination among different stakeholders are essential.

This work has important implications for FIATA's ongoing work on the digitalization of FIATA transport documents and the FIATA Digital Identity, and its work towards the development of trusted networks, which FIATA had the opportunity to present at the WCC. Together, these efforts open the path towards the future of digital trade – where one day, access to trusted networks will provide access to the data necessary, and interoperability and standardization will facilitate the seamless transfer of such data across the supply chain. This is crucial to address the challenges of trade digitalisation, enhance efficiency and transparency, and promote economic growth and job creation in emerging markets. ■

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

WELCOME TO COLOMBIA FOR THE XXIV FITAC INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS THIS NOVEMBER!

In Colombia, the most important annual meeting of the logistics and foreign trade sector in Latin America is being prepared. The XXIV FITAC International Congress will bring together the main actors of the supply chain, with more than 500 companies, opinion leaders, associations, authorities and international and national speakers to generate spaces for conversation around the competitiveness of trade and customs, and analyse current issues of great relevance such as sustainable logistics and trends for the year 2024. Artificial Intelligence and its impact on international trade, and the rise of women in the transformation and sustainability of logistics, will be topics that will be addressed at the event. We

look forward to having the participation of Stéphane Graber, Director General of FIATA, who will share on the steps being made by the world's largest multimodal body for the global freight forwarding community.

In an academic, commercial and networking environment, this event will be held from 29 November to 1 December 2023 in the city of Cartagena de Indias - Colombia. The facilities of the Hilton Cartagena Hotel will be ready to receive all participants and provide them with inspiring experiences for the development of economic activities that connect the world. For more information, visit this link www.congreso.fitac.net ■



GLOBAL LOGISTICS SUMMIT 2023 & ALOG'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Dear Esteemed Members of the Freight Forwarding Community and Logistics Operators,

We at ALOG (Asociación Logística de Chile) are thrilled to extend an exclusive invitation to FIATA Members to the much-anticipated Global Logistics Summit 2023. This extraordinary event is not only a convergence of industry leaders, professionals, and stakeholders, but also a celebration of achievements and milestones. On this day, we come together to deliberate on the future of freight forwarding and logistics while commemorating ALOG's 20th Anniversary - two decades of excellence, innovation, and collaboration.

Sessions will include opening words from the FIATA President Ivan Petrov, and updates on FIATA's latest projects by FIATA Director General Stéphane Graber including the digital journey of freight forwarders, and sustainability in logistics, with particular focus on the decarbonisation of the maritime sector. A key highlight will be the awarding of the 'Outstanding Company' in the Chilean logistics sector in 2023. Don't miss this opportunity to network with regional counterparts, and grow your knowledge on the Latin America and global logistics scene. ■



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

THE TOP 5 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD NOT MISS THE 2023 FWC IN BELGIUM!

This year the FIATA World Congress (FWC) in Brussels will cover key challenges, innovations and latest developments in logistics. The Congress, under the title 'The Changing Climate of Logistics' starts on 1 October, and you'll definitely want to be there. Here are 5 reasons why.

1) MEET THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION AND HEAR ITS EXPERTISE!

During the first two days of the congress, on 1 and 2 October, FIATA Members are invited to participate in different workshops and sessions of the FIATA Institutes and Bodies. If that is not enough, there's also a special session organised jointly with the WCO.

2) AN ILLUMINATING HACKATHON

On 3 October, the entire day will be dedicated to the future of our sector. Students and young professionals will take on current challenges during the famous hackathon. Think brainstorming, creative ideas and solutions about climate goals, sustainable development, carbon neutral transport and sustainable logistics. At the end of the hackathon, all teams will pitch their most brilliant ideas, and afterwards the winner will be chosen carefully by a professional jury. Game on!

The day will be opened with an inspiring keynote by the one and only Kristof Cuadros Perez, a passionate expert on the impact of climate change and the choices we can make. Seriously, you don't want to miss this one!

3) A SPECTACULAR OPENING ACT AND HIGH-LEVEL SPEAKERS WILL BLOW YOUR MIND

On 4 October, we'll take off with the most spectacular opening act you've ever seen at a FIATA World Congress. You'll witness a beautiful performance of image, dance and music. Be prepared to wipe away the tears along the way, because this show will definitely leave no one untouched.

After this performance, you can expect various high-level speakers to talk with conviction about their unique disciplines. Just a small giveaway as to who will join us: the secretary-general of the WCO Dr Kunio Mikuriya, Dr Jan Hoffman, Christian Clauwers, and many more.

4) 5 UNMISSABLE LOGISTICS TRENDS

What about green logistics, ideal transport solutions or risk management? Those are just a few topics we'll touch upon during this last day of the FWC. Through theme sessions and panel discussions, we'll reflect on current trends you can't ignore.

Here's a quick overview of the topics:

- The future of green logistics: CO₂-neutral operations and initiatives.
- How digitalisation can help solve logistic matters: smart technologies, AI and cybercrime.
- Navigating evolving transport needs: thinking about the ideal transport solution.
- How to optimise risk management: an overview of all possible risks in logistics thanks to current trends, and how to solve them.
- Forging different career paths in the logistics industry: refreshing and inspiring ideas from a real marketing specialist

5) BELGIAN ENTERTAINMENT ON SITE

Since the congress is taking place in the heart of Belgium, we need to make sure you truly feel and experience Belgium as it is. That's why we've taken care of real Belgian side entertainment. Expect things such as Belgian museums and attractions, a FIATA Gala Dinner in a museum of vintage cars, some of the most delicious Belgian specialties, Belgian art nouveau, comic strip art, Belgian fashion and design, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Magritte's surrealism. And that all in just one congress. We told you; you'll definitely want to be part of this year's FWC. Register now and get inspired! ■



2023 FWC PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 30 Sept 2023	SUNDAY 1 Oct 2023	MONDAY 2 Oct 2023	TUESDAY 3 Oct 2023	WEDNESDAY 4 Oct 2023	THURSDAY 5 Oct 2023	
08:30 - 12:00 Presidency	10:30 - 12:00 AFI Meeting	09:30 - 10:30 ABLM Meeting	09:00 - 18:00 Young Logistics Professionals Day	08:30-09:00 Inauguration exhibition	08:30 - 09:45 Panel discussion Exploring the Future of Green Logistics	08:30 - 10:00 Extended board
				09:00 - 10:15 Opening session	Break	Break
				Break	10:30 - 11:45 Panel discussion How Digitalisation Can Help Solve Logistics Matters	11:00 - 13:00 General meeting
Lunch	Lunch	12:00 - 13:00 ABIA Meeting	09:00 - 18:00 Young Logistics Professionals Day	10:45 - 12:15 Plenary session Changing the Climate of Logistics	Lunch	Free
13:00 - 17:30 Presidency	13:00 - 14:30 FLI Meeting	Lunch		Lunch	12:45 - 13:45 Panel discussion Navigating Evolving Transport Needs	
	Break	14:00 - 15:00 CAI Meeting		13:15 - 14:30 YLP Talk Show The Future of Logistics: Spotlight on Young Logistics Professionals	Break	
	15:00 - 16:30 MTI Meeting	15:30 - 18:00 WCO Special Session	18:00 - 20:00 Welcome reception square	15:00 16:30 REU	14:15 - 15:15 Panel discussion Compliance: How to Optimize Risk Management	Free
Free	Break			15:00 16:30 RAP	Break	
	17:00 - 18:00 ABSS Meeting			Break	15:45 - 16:45 Panel discussion Forging Different Career Paths in the Logistics Industry	
	Free	Free	07:30 - 17:00 Exhibition Setup	16:45 18:15 RAMs	16:45 17:30 Closing ceremony	08:00 - 16:00 Exhibition Dismantling
				16:45 18:15 RAME	Free	
				Free	Free	
08:30 - 18:00 Exhibition	08:30 - 17:30 Exhibition	08:30 - 17:30 Exhibition	18:00 - 20:00 Exhibition	19:00 Belgian evening Belgian Comic Strip Museum	19:00 Gala dinner Autoworld	

Opening/Plenary Sessions

Panel Discussions

Young Logistics Professionals

FIATA Presidency Members Session

Working Sessions (FIATA members or elected members only)

Social Moments



FIATA MEETINGS AND EVENTS

WELCOME TO BRUSSELS! ARE YOU READY FOR THE FIATA WORLD CONGRESS?

To best assist its members, the FIATA Headquarters team has put together the following Q&A on the FIATA World Congress 2023. Feel free to reach out to the Events Team (events@fiata.org) should an answer to your question not be found.

Are there any requirements to consider for travel to Belgium?

Please plan your travel well in advance and allow plenty of time to apply for a visa. The FIATA World Congress 2023 cannot issue actual visas to attend the Congress but can issue a visa support letter to assist with your visa application. If you require a visa support letter, please complete the relevant sections in the online registration system when you register. Please note that support letters will only be issued upon confirmation of registration and after the full payment for registration fees has been received. For more information and contacts, please visit <https://fiata2023.com/>.

What are the exact dates of the FWC?

The official dates of the 2023 FIATA World Congress are 3-6 October 2023. From Sunday 1 October to Mon-

day 2 October, reporting pre-meetings for all Institutes, Advisory Bodies and Standing Committees have been organised (for FIATA members only), apart from the Regional Meetings, which will take place in the afternoon of Wednesday 4 October.

Tuesday 3 October will kick off with the Young Logistics Professionals Day featuring the “YLP Challenge” – a hackathon, where young people will work together for a short period of time to come up with creative solutions for a specific business case – and close with the Welcome Reception at the congress venue. The Opening Session will take place in the morning of Wednesday 4 October.

What are the various accommodation options available?

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) has negotiated special prices for the entire duration of the event with several hotels close to the congress venue. FIATA Members are invited to make their booking through the official website of the 2023 FIATA World Congress, via the accommodation section at <https://fiata2023.com/accommodation/>.

Make sure to book your hotel as soon as possible to guarantee availability and benefit from special accommodation prices!

I would like to be more visible, have a booth at the Congress or become a sponsor. How should I proceed?

The 2023 LOC Team will be happy to help with your sponsoring request! Please reach out to them by e-mail to fiata2023@aimgroup.eu. If you are looking for a more global long-term approach with FIATA, and want your firm or entity to provide active support to the global forwarding community in a two-way, long-term, joint development approach, then reach out to the FIATA Events Team at events@fiata.org to discuss opportunities!

What is the weather generally like in Brussels in October?

October is autumn in Belgium, with cool temperatures between 9°C and 15°C. Days are shorter and you should prepare yourself for grey skies and wet weather, but this does not diminish the city’s unique charm – and although it is always a good idea to bring an umbrella along, weather can change quickly in Brussels and sunshine might be just a few minutes away. ■



AGENDA

UPCOMING FIATA EVENTS



2023 | OCTOBER

3 - 6

FIATA WORLD CONGRESS 2023
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

FIATA WORLD CONGRESS 2023, 3-6 OCTOBER 2023 IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM!

For almost 100 years, FIATA has been convening industry leaders and innovators in logistics at its flagship FIATA World Congress (FWC). This annual event, which takes place between September and October, brings together 1,000 to 1,500 participants from the logistics, transport, and cargo industries, as well as observers from other sectors and a significant number of institutional attendees. The 2023 FWC will be held in Brussels – Square Convention Centre, on 3-6 October and hosted by the Belgian FIATA Association Member Forward Belgium. The Congress theme for 2023 is “The Changing Climate of Logistics”, and will cover key challenges, innovations and latest developments in a changing global market. Key topics will include new trends in global logistics, education, compliance, diversity and responsibility of the logistics sector in adaption to climate change and emerging market developments. Register on the official website now! fiata2023.com ■



2023 | NOVEMBER

20 - 21

FIATA-UIC MARKET PLACE SEMINAR
ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE

FIATA-UIC MARKET PLACE SEMINAR, 20-21 NOVEMBER 2023 IN ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE!

The 11th edition of the Market Place Seminar is scheduled to take place on 20-21 November 2023 in Istanbul, Türkiye, and is organised jointly by FIATA and UIC (International Union of Railways). Under the theme “Shaping the Future of Multimodal Logistics - Connecting the Regions”, this year’s edition will spotlight the developments of the Middle and Southern rail and multimodal freight corridors. It will bring together speakers from renowned companies in the logistics industry, railway undertakings, and corridor development organisations to discuss new opportunities in Eurasian trade from policy and investment perspectives.

The thematic sessions will explore the agile transformation of the logistics industry in the Middle and Southern Corridors and the provisional programme is available on <https://marketplaceseminar.org/>. Registration will be open soon, and a detailed programme will be available shortly. ■



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1-6 OCTOBER 2023



FIATA
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The changing climate of logistics



Check **www.fiata2023.com** for all information regarding registration, programme, social events, hotels...