

FIATA LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

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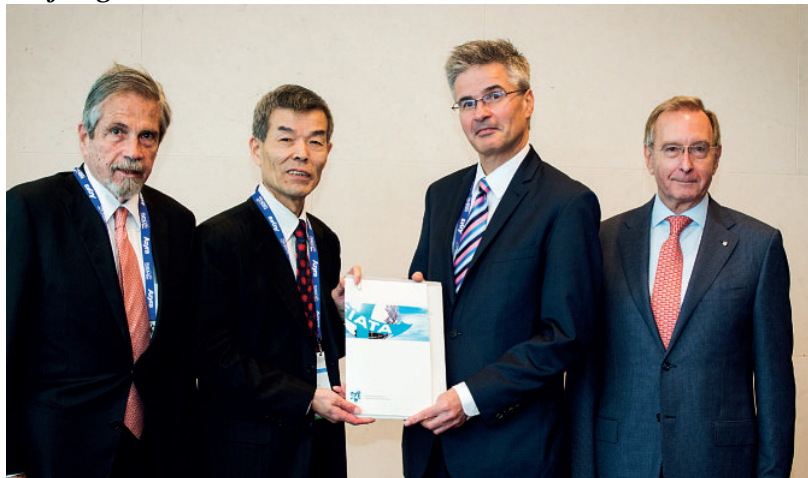
Report on the FIATA World Congress, 03 - 08 October 2016 in Dublin, Ireland

(Extract of FIATA Review No. 115, December 2016)



One of the highlights at this year's FIATA World Congress in Dublin was FIATA's 90th anniversary, which was celebrated with delegates of the founding association Members at trinity college, Dublin. Other highlights were the meetings which were held in a new style, based on open and interested interaction between the participants and the speakers.

Airfreight Institute - AFI



The agendas regulatory procedures were swiftly settled and the audience witnessed a historical event - the public signing ceremony of the cooperation agreement between FIATA and IATA for the IATA-FIATA Air Cargo Program (IFACP). Subsequent to the signing FIATA President Huxiang Zhao described this as a rather extraordinary event. Mr Zhao said: “After many decades we are launching a new airfreight programme, for the first time one that is not presented to an audience of agents by the airlines, but a programme that is

jointly introduced by the global freight forwarders’ and airlines’ organizations.” This was, according to the President, enough to explain the desire of the attendees to witness this historical moment, and he recognized that: “It was not sufficient to explain the sense of expectation that I feel comes towards FIATA from the farthest corners of our constituencies, which are eager to launch the programme in their regions.” Reaching the agreement was a monumental task for which he thanked AFI on behalf of FIATA’s members, but he stressed that the implementing phase may be even more demanding.

Mr Aleks Popovich, IATA Senior Vice President for Industry Distribution and Financial Services, was pleased that the industry collaborative spirit was fully embraced by his new IATA Director General and CEO, Alexandre de Juniac. He explained that Alexandre has commitments at the 39th ICAO Assembly in Montréal. He delivered the IATA CEO’s best wishes and full support. He stated that this signing of the Cooperation Agreement ensures IATA and FIATA will continue their collaboration and dialogue and work more closely together for the mutual benefit of the air cargo industry. Mr Popovich looks forward to the effective rollout of IFACP across all markets over the next two years - a challenging task in itself!

Customs Affairs Institute - CAI

Emanating from CAI’s work that is connected with the World Customs Organization (WCO), which relates as well to the WCO’s World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) Working Group, amongst many other aspects and topics, the Chairman made the passage to the following topic and the guest speaker: Realising the benefits of the WTO’s TFA: easier, faster, cheaper trade. Ms Donia Hammami, Head of Customs & Trade Facilitation, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and Vice President, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF), flagged her presentation under GATF, highlighting the public-private partnership for trade-led growth. She informed participants about features and benefits of the TFA Agreement and explained about the TFA’s targeted aspects of border procedures.

Once it enters into force the TFA will be binding. With its present status of ratification it’s only lacking sixteen countries to reach that milestone. The agreement provides a unique momentum to get all government agencies and stakeholders together, enabling them to reach a win-win situation, since governments and trade share the objective to increase trade and economic growth. The TFA encourages a multi-stakeholder approach through



implementation through National Committees on Trade Facilitation and enables developing countries to request financial and technical assistance as well as special differential treatment.



Multimodal Transport Institute - MTI

Mr Jens Roemer (Belgium), Chairman of the Working Group Sea Transport, reported that on 1 July 2016 the SOLAS amendment became law, and it is illegal for shipping lines to ship a container without a valid VGM. The IMO asked for a practical and pragmatic approach for the first three-month period, this grace period terminated on 1 October 2016. As expected, rules and legal enforcement vary between countries, ocean carriers and marine terminals.

The main opinion is that the introduction of the SOLAS Amendment and VGM has run very smoothly in almost all countries. Except for some teething problems, there do not seem to have been any major problems to trade. With the support of FIATA and the documentation and guidance provided by the working group, national Freight Forwarders Associations have often been in the front line in meetings with their governments and other stakeholders.

Shipping Lines reproduced legal terms and documentation, but often Freight Forwarders consulted their customers on the mechanism and impact of the SOLAS Amendment, in the process creating awareness and discussing practical solutions. In this context, Freight Forwarders have often added value to their services by providing method 1 weighing solutions.

Legal enforcement by the government agencies in charge appears to be limited at the moment. However, we expect enforcement agencies to implement measures to ensure that compliance is achieved. Proper due-diligence procedures for method 2 are essential and should not be underestimated. Forwarders should stay close to their customers, consulting them and assuring themselves that information is conclusive.

The 2017 FIATA World Congress will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia between 4th and 8th of October 2017. Details are available at: <http://www.fiata2017.org>.

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