

# FIATA

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FIATA SECRETARIAT

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## FIATA WORLD CONGRESS 2004

held from 19 September to 23 September 2004 in Sun City/South Africa

The FIATA World Congress 2004, hosted by FIATA's South African National Association member SAAFF, was held from 19 September to 23 September 2004 in Sun City/South Africa. The congress slogan "Gateway to Africa" attracted nearly 600 freight forwarders and accompanying persons from 70 different countries to attend the congress and the concurrently running exhibition.

At the opening ceremony Jeff Radebe, Minister of Transport of South Africa, welcomed the participants. Miss Anita van Kooten (Netherlands) was honoured as the winner of the FIATA/TTClub/IATA Award 2004 for the "Young International Freight Forwarder of the Year".

At the meeting of the **Extended Board** some forward-looking decisions have been taken. Dubai/United Arab Emirates has been selected to host the FIATA World Congress 2007, and starting from 2008 onwards the full responsibility for the organization of the annual congresses will entirely be with the FIATA Secretariat in Switzerland.

The participants at the **Airfreight Institute** meeting, chaired by Herman Donker (Belgium) were informed that the IFCC (IATA/FIATA Consultative Council) has recommended that discussion should be started in Canada and India to extend the EACP (European Air Cargo Program) to these countries. Furthermore, the delegates were advised not to sign indemnity letters regarding the responsibility for the correctness of the information received from shippers and submitted to the carriers in order to comply with the AAMS (Automated Air Manifest System). It is felt that the carriers are adequately protected by Article 10 of the Warsaw and/or Montreal Convention 1999.

During the Mini Forum Thomas Gutruf, Managing Director of Nacora Ltd in Switzerland, and Robert Donald, Attorney and Aviation Consultant from Canada, made a presentation highlighting the differences between the Warsaw and Montreal Convention 1999. It was recognized that changes in the conditions of contract on the Air Waybill were necessary to clarify the applicable liability when other modes of transport are used to perform a transport beyond the airport of destination covered by the Air Waybill.

The Chairman of the **Customs Affairs Institute (CAI)**, Alberto Petrozzi (Italy) could introduce Robert A Struthers, Technical Officer Procedures and Facilitation Sub-Directorate World Customs Organization in Brussels/Belgium, who made a presentation on the international procedures of the WCO regarding transit, and informed that the Unique Consignment Reference (UCR) guidelines can now be downloaded from the WCO website. Seolo Makwela, Customs Branch Manager of South African Revenue Services (SARS) explained the transit procedure of the Kalahari Corridor. A further presentation covered the newly introduced ISPM15 regulation in India on wood packing which will enter into force on November 1, 2004.

The meeting of the **Multimodal Transport Institute (MTI)** chaired by Christopher J. Gillespie (Canada) was attended by more than 270 delegates. MTI delegates took note of Gustav Poschalko's (Austria) resignation as Chairman of Working Group Rail Transport, and agreed to Heiner Rogge (Germany) as new Chairman of this body.

Heiner Rogge informed about the progress which the Working Group has made with its work plan, in particular in the field of rail transport quality. Further subjects having been presented were the first meeting with representatives of the private rail transport industry, the co-operation of FIATA Working Group Rail Transport and the CLECAT Rail Transport Committee, as well as the co-operation of these two groups with UIRR.

William Poeschmann (United Kingdom), Chairman of Working Group Road Transport concentrated on the experience in the new EU member countries with the EU enlargement. Other items discussed were the future co-operation of FIATA and CLECAT in the field of road transport, the road toll situation in Europe, and road transport security.

Frank Boogaerts (Belgium), Chairman of Working Group Sea Transport focussed in his report about the activities on additional surcharges related to the International Ship and Port Facility Security code (ISPS) on which the Working Group had passed a statement. Another important issue was the lack of data confidentiality in the USA where commercially sensitive data transmitted to the US Customs and Border Protection are made available to the interested public. Also addressed were the developments in the service contract discrimination of NVOCC's under the US Ocean Shipping Reform Act as well as cash deposits in the PR China under the Chinese regulations on International Maritime Transportation.

The MTI meeting was followed by the Main Forum on Transport Security. Speakers were Denis Lefebvre, Executive Vice President of the Canada Border Services Agency, Jean Trestour, Acting Director for Security of Person of the Assets and the Facilities Directorate General of Transport and Energy of the European Commission, and Matthew Zehner, Vice President of Roanoke Trade Services Inc, Schaumburg IL/USA.

Information on the updated Dangerous Goods regulations – in particular the updated regulations for air transport - coming into force on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 has been given at the meeting of the **Advisory Body Dangerous Goods (ABDG)** which was chaired by Göran Berg (Sweden). Links Mudaly from the South African Department of Transport presented the South African DG regulations, and it was noted that the local road regulations were to a large extent similar to the European ADR regulations. A TTClub representative informed about the willingness of TTClub to provide training on the DG regulations for sea transport (IMDG Code) to FIATA National Association members without any charges.

The **Advisory Body Legal Matters (ABLM)**, chaired by the newly elected chairperson Kay Pysden (UK), has focussed on the UNCITRAL Working Group on Transport Law, and reported on all relevant information with regard to progress and decisions made. It has also been confirmed that the final draft of the "Correspondents Agreement" has been approved, and shall soon be printed and made available for sale by the FIATA Secretariat.

Information about the US Supreme Court case of Norfolk Southern Railway Company-v-Kirby involving the FIATA FBL as well as latest information about the ICC Banking Commission's position with regard to the new clauses on Bills of Lading has been given. Robert Donald (Canada) reported on the effect of the "Siemens case" and of major changes which will be brought about by the Montreal Protocol 4 and the need to consider possible wording changes to Airway bill terms.

The Chairman of the **Advisory Body Information Technology (ABIT)**, Kenneth C.A. Tiong (Malaysia), briefed on the outcome of the FIATA Repository project. He expressed that the working prototype shall be available to be presented during the HQ Session in March 2005. Robert Schubanel, CEO of EAN Switzerland presented on the EPC (Electronic Product Code) Global Initiative of EAN/UCC which covers the Global Standard and Business Model for the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology. Susan I. Evans, Director Business Development for Europe, Middle East and Africa of SAVI Technology Inc. informed about the Smart and Secure Tradelane Project which outlines the application of active RFID technology into the movements of sea containers in the supply chain environment.

The meeting of the **Advisory Body Public Relations (ABPR)** was chaired by Colin Beaumont (UK). The participants have been informed that as from the beginning of 2005 the Members' Directory will be on the Internet only and not be distributed as hardcopy any longer. A focal point discussed was the membership drive to encourage FIATA's National Association members to attract as many as possible of their local members to join FIATA as Individual members. The meeting was closed after presentations made by the hosts of the FIATA World Congress 2005 in Moscow resp 2006 in Shanghai.

The winner of the Young International Freight Forwarder of the Year 2004 Award, Miss Anita van Kooten (Netherlands) was introduced by John Nicholls (UK), Chairman of the YIFFA Steering Committee, at the **Advisory Body Vocational Training (ABVT)**. It was also announced that in future there would be four prizes, one for the winner in each of the four FIATA regions with the overall winner to be announced at the congress Gala Dinner. ABVT Deputy Chairman Thomas Sim (Singapore) outlined the intended structural changes to the validation procedure of training programs. Certificates were delivered to the National Association members from China and India for successfully accredited training material.

A report was given on a Train-the-trainers course held in July in Nairobi, financed and run by the FIATA Foundation for Vocational Training. An up-date on the Global Facilitation project backed by the World Bank was provided by Sally O'Farrell (France), FIATA project consultant. Four Balkan countries are about to pilot a distance learning course leading to the FIATA Diploma.

The **Region Asia/Pacific** meeting was chaired by Stanley Lim (Singapore). In this region trade issues such as the newly introduced Montreal Convention, Training of trainers, and Information technology are recognized as major problems. A representative from India made an interesting presentation regarding the Indian customs and multimodal transport procedures as well as the future development of the industry.

At the meeting of the **Region Europe**, chaired by Jean-Claude Delen (Belgium), Sören Rasmussen, Head of the TIR Department of IRU and Piet Timmermans of 3ad NV at Brussels Airport made presentations on road transport security from the perspective of IRU and on airfreight security respectively. Heiner Rogge (Germany), Chairman of the CLECAT Rail Transport Committee, updated delegates on the quality initiative by the European Commission on rail transport. Further items discussed were the situation at the external border of the European Union after the enlargement of 2004, the road toll system in Germany, and the liberalisation of port services in Europe.

Rodolfo Sagel (Argentina), Chairman of the **Region Americas (RAMNS)**, could welcome the President of ALACAT, Sigmundo Borowski (Uruguay) who gave a short overview of the forthcoming ALACAT congress early November 2004 in Barcelona. Main topics discussed were security issues, and - particularly in view of guarantee insurance (seguro de caucion) applied in Latin America - CASS regulations.

At the meeting of the **Region Africa and Middle East (RAME)**, chaired by Abdelmalek Dahmani (Tunisia), a representative from Egypt informed about the latest status of the translation of FIATA documents into Arabic. The representative from Kenya informed about the successfully organized "Train-the-trainer" course recently held in Nairobi and sponsored by the FIATA Foundation for Vocational Training. The Secretary General of the Iranian member made a presentation on "Iranian Market Trends" and gave some detailed information about customs procedure in Iran.

The **General Meeting** has unanimously approved admittance of four new National Association members from Chinese Taipei, Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan and Uganda. They also accepted the financial statements for the fiscal year 2003, the budget for the year 2005, and awarded Honorary Membership of FIATA to Peter Jones (Canada), the leaving chairman of the ABLM.

The Congress has ended with an exciting Gala Dinner during which a raffle for the benefit of the FIATA Foundation for Vocational Training has successfully been organised. The result has been donations of almost CHF 15'000.00, which will exclusively be used by the Foundation.

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Please contact the FIATA Secretariat in Glattbrugg/Switzerland  
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