

Newsletter Issue 35 / 2 October 2015

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS

FREIGHT FORWARDERS FORUM 2015: 'MOVING THE MARITIME SUPPLY CHAIN FORWARD'

[RESERVE YOUR SEAT](#) for CLECAT's Freight Forwarder Forum '**MOVING THE MARITIME SUPPLY CHAIN FORWARD**' taking place on November 19 in Antwerp.

The event will gather key policy and business leaders for a lively discussion on mega-trends in the maritime supply chains with 3 sessions debating:

- Big Ships = big challenges for the supply chain
- Creating a smooth Maritime Supply Chain through Innovation
- Container Weight Verification Rules: from legislation to implementation

Confirmed speakers include

- **Stijn Rubens**, Senior Consultant - Supply Chain Advisors, Drewry
- **Desiree Oen**, Deputy Head of Cabinet Commissioner Bulc, EC
- **Jens Poggensee**, President Freight Forwarding Europe Region UPS Europe
- **Tom Verbeke**, General Manager, "K"Line (Europe)
- **Olaf Merk**, Administrator, Ports and Shipping, International Transport Forum
- **Lamia Kerdjoudj-Belkaid**, Director-General, FEPORT
- **Dr Christa Sys**, Holder of the BNP Paribas Fortis Chair - Transport, Logistics and Ports
- **Ronald Plevier**, Sales Director for Benelux, Germany and Central Europe at INTTRA
- **Lennart Heip**, ITO/MPC/Air Mode Leader Europe, Dow Logistics
- **Peregrine Storrs-Fox**, Risk Management Director, TT Club
- **Lars Kjaer**, Senior Vice President, World Shipping Council and others

When: Thursday, November 19, 2015 - Registration/lunch 12.30 event 13.30 -18.30

Where: Port of Antwerp, Havenhuis, Entrepotkaai 1, 2000 Antwerpen

Programme: click [here](#)

CLECAT/CORE WORKSHOP 'IMPORTING INTO THE EU UNDER THE NEW UCC'

In conjunction with the Freight Forwarders' Forum, CLECAT and CORE will organise a workshop on '**importing into the EU under the new Union Customs Code.**' The event will gather key policy and business leaders for a lively discussion on the new legal framework of the UCC and IT needs to ensure enhanced data quality and improved risk assessment. CORE will address possible solutions for standardisation and automation in data analysis.

Speakers include:

- DG TAXUD (tbc)
- World Shipping Council
- Godfried Smit, European Shippers' Council
- Dominique Willems, FENEX/CLECAT
- Gerwin Zomer and Wout Hofman, TNO

When: Thursday, November 19, 2015 - Registration/coffee 10.00 event 10.30-12.30

Where: Port of Antwerp, Havenhuis, Entrepotkaai 1, 2000 Antwerpen

Participation to the Workshop is free of charge.

Programme: click [here](#)

RSVP: by email to poppa@clecat.org (name, company, address)

TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY COUNCIL, 08/10/2015

The Transport Council on 8 October will seek a general approach on two proposals to liberalise rail passenger services and strengthen the governance of railway infrastructure. They are part of the market pillar of the 4th railway package, which proposes reform in the areas of governance and market opening. Infrastructure managers and rail operators are often still part of the same integrated structure. The proposed changes would separate infrastructure managers from rail operators, except in specific circumstances where there are sufficient safeguards in place. Ministers will also address the issue of railway security over their working lunch.

2011 transport white paper

The Council will hold a policy debate on EU transport policy priorities and targets in the context of the 2011 transport white paper. The Commission is currently evaluating progress in the implementation of the initiatives set out in the white paper.

EFSI and EU financing landscape for transport

European Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen and European Investment Bank Vice-President Pim van Ballekom will brief ministers on new opportunities linked to the European fund for strategic investments (EFSI) and the EU financing landscape for transport.

Source: [EU COUNCIL](#)

MARITIME

CORRECTION: WSC COMMENTS ON US CONTAINER WEIGHT VERIFICATION POSITION

In CLECAT newsletter 33, World Shipping Council senior vice president Lars Kjaer was quoted with reference to an earlier article from Loadstar following the ICHCA container weighing event on September 11 in London. According to the article Mr Kjaer should have said that verified gross mass obtained using Method 2 would not be allowed in the U.S.

The WSC has clarified that Mr Kjaer remarks were that while the U.S. Coast Guard does not plan to establish an accreditation scheme for shippers using Method 2, this does not mean that U.S. exporters may not provide verified gross masses for packed export containers using Method 2. They may do so, as long as such shippers comply with the requirement in SOLAS to use calibrated and certified weighing equipment.

EUROPEAN BOX PEAK FAILS TO DELIVER

Europe's peak season has not materialised and this is having a demoralising impact on the Asia-Europe container trades, according to one leading analyst.

"I see the European trade from a very pessimistic point of view," Hackett Associates' Ben Hackett told Lloyd's Loading List.com. "The only bright sign is the transpacific trade where the US economy is growing nicely and trade volumes are also up. The Chinese economy is in trouble; it cannot export itself out of the current situation as Europe is not buying, and the rest of Asia is also weak in response to the loss of its export markets in both China and Europe."

In Hackett Associates' North Europe Global Port Tracker, Hackett notes that the North European peak season "appears to have faded away without a trace" and the full Asia-Europe trade "had a disappointing start to the peak season", with traffic falls of 7.1% from last year's level.

Hackett warns that early indicators from Asia suggest that volume growth of European imports in September and October is unlikely, a trend likely to further exacerbate the container fleet supply-demand imbalance.

He also calls 2015 an "annus horribilus" for trade growth, with European imports likely to contract substantially for the first time since 2009.

"The second half of the year will be over 9 percentage points below the growth rate experienced during the same period last year," said the new report. "All the ports bar Antwerp are either flat or have less volume than during the previous 12 months.

"Antwerp stands out with strong growth but Zeebrugge volumes are declining so rapidly that one has to wonder how long it can keep going. North European exports remain in positive territory, but the growth projection is well down on 2014. The second half of 2015 has growth of only 2.7% versus a rate of 9.6% in the same period last year."

Source: [LLOYD'S LOADING LIST](#)

EUROPE GIVES BELGIUM AND SPAIN A LAST CHANCE TO LIBERALIZE DOCK LABOUR

The European Commission has given both Belgium and Spain a final opportunity to submit proposals for measures to liberalize access to the port labour market. On 11 December 2014 a judgment was given against Spain because its restrictive pool system for dock labour was held to be incompatible with the freedom of establishment guaranteed by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. If Spain does not voluntarily proceed to the reform of its dock labour system, it risks being condemned for a second time by the Court in Luxembourg which will then impose financial sanctions. Should Belgium fail to modernize its very similar dock labour arrangements, the European Commission will probably seek a judgment against this Member State too.

AIR

SWISS LAUNCHES E-AWB 'SINGLE PROCESS'

Following a successful four-month pilot phase with several key freight forwarding customers, Swiss WorldCargo has begun offering the so-called 'single process' for electronic air waybills (e-AWBs) at a number of its key gateways in a move that is expected to significantly accelerate adoption of the e-AWB throughout its network – as it has with sister company Lufthansa Cargo.

The air cargo carrier said the 'e-AWB single process' made e-AWB adoption much smoother for the freight forwarding community by allowing the forwarder to tender all shipments to the airline without a paper AWB, even on trade lanes where a paper AWB is required by national or local customs agencies or other authorities.

Swiss WorldCargo can now accept single process e-AWB shipments in Zurich, Montreal, Los Angeles, New York JFK and Copenhagen. The facility will be further extended to six to eight more stations by the end of this year, and to other "suitable" airports in the Swiss WorldCargo network in the course of 2016.

"Our adoption of the e-AWB single process at Swiss WorldCargo is thanks to the collaborative efforts of our ground handling partners Cargologic, Swissport and Lufthansa Handling and – during the pilot phase – our customers Panalpina, Brinks, Unitrans, Schenker and Malca Amit," said Paolo Tuzzi, manager for transportation processes and e-AWB project lead.

In Switzerland, the e-freight transformation has been driven by IG Air Cargo (Interest Group Air Cargo Switzerland), of which Swiss WorldCargo and its handling partners are founding members, and which has been committed to facilitating the involvement of local stakeholders, Swiss said.

Source: [LLOYD'S LOADING LIST](#), 29 September 2015

CUSTOMS

EC LAUNCHES A CONSULTATION ON VAT FOR CROSS-BORDER E-COMMERCE

On 25 September 2015, the European Commission has launched a public consultation to identify ways to simplify the Value-Added Tax (VAT) payments on cross-border e-commerce transactions in the EU.

The Commission expects to receive a wide range of views from business owners and other interested parties before it drafts its legislative proposals on the topic in 2016, as part of the Digital Single Market strategy. The future proposal will include specific measures for small business including a VAT threshold for the importation of small consignments.

This consultation is also part of the ongoing assessment of the new rules for VAT payments on cross-border telecommunications, broadcasting and electronic services which came into force last January. The Commission is keen to obtain feedback on the associated Mini-One Stop Shop (MOSS) in order to see whether it could be extended to tangible goods ordered online both within and outside the EU. Deadline for response to the consultation is 18 December 2015.

More information is available [HERE](#).

EU-NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS AGREEMENT INITIALED

On 23 September 2015 the EU - New Zealand customs agreement was initialled by Mr Antonis Kastrissianakis (Director, Taxation and Customs Union Directorate-General) for the EU and H.E. Mr David Taylor (Ambassador of New Zealand to the EU) for New Zealand. The initialling of the agreement marked the end of the negotiation process which was launched back in July 2013.

This agreement, after it has been signed and concluded, will provide the EU and New Zealand with the legal basis for a cooperation framework which aims at securing the supply chain and facilitating legitimate trade, as well as enabling information exchange to ensure the proper application of customs legislation and the prevention, investigation and combating of breaches of customs legislation.

The press release of the Commission is available [HERE](#).

GENERAL

CHINA ANNOUNCES ITS CONTRIBUTION TO #INVESTEU

At the High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue in Beijing earlier this week, China announced its intention to contribute to the Investment Plan, as well as closer cooperation with the EU on investment issues in general. During the High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue in Beijing, Vice-Premier Ma Kai informed Commission Vice-President Jyrki Katainen that China will contribute to the Commission's €315 billion Investment Plan for Europe. China is the first non-EU country to announce its contribution to the Plan.

As well as this announcement, the two sides agreed to set up a joint working group to increase cooperation between the EU and China on all aspects of investment. The working group will include experts from China's Silk Road Fund, the Commission, and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The EIB, the Commission's strategic partner in the Investment Plan, was also represented at the HED in Beijing.

The European Commission and the Chinese government also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the EU-China Connectivity Platform to enhance synergies between China's "One Belt One Road" initiative and the EU's connectivity initiatives such as the Trans-European Transport Network policy. The Platform will promote cooperation in areas such as infrastructure, equipment, technologies and standards. This will create multiple business opportunities and promote employment, growth and development for both sides, and it will be done in cooperation with the EIB. Finally, the EU encouraged deepened collaboration between China and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), including the examination of a possible membership in the EBRD in line with its rules.

In Beijing, Vice-President Katainen was joined by Günther Oettinger, European Commissioner in charge of Digital Economy and Society, who successfully concluded a new agreement on 5G; and Commissioner Bulc, who held talks on transport infrastructure investment cooperation.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5723_en.htm

EC RELEASES STATISTICAL POCKETBOOK 2015

A statistical pocketbook for 2015 on various segments of the transport industry has been released by the European Commission and made available publically. The statistics examines freight performance, safety, infrastructure, environment and much more.

To access the statistic pocket book please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/facts-fundings/statistics/pocketbook-2015_en.htm

WTO: EU COUNCIL APPROVES PROTOCOL ON TRADE FACILITATION

On 1 October 2015, the Council adopted a decision approving, on behalf of the EU, the conclusion of a WTO protocol establishing a trade facilitation agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to simplify and modernise procedures for the movement of goods, including import and export procedures. The aim is to help smaller businesses exploit export opportunities and to facilitate developing countries' participation in international trade. The trade facilitation agreement will enter into force once two-thirds of WTO members have completed their domestic ratification processes and the step taken by the EU Council brings in a group of 28 countries in one single leap.

To read more please visit:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/10/01-wto-trade-facilitation/>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CLECAT MEETINGS:

Air Logistics Institute

- 13 October 2015 (morning), Brussels

Supply Chain Security Institute

- 13 October 2015 (afternoon), Brussels

Road Logistics Institute

- 14 October 2015 (morning), Brussels

Sustainable Logistics Institute

- 14 October 2015 (afternoon), Brussels

Customs and Indirect Taxation Institute

- 15 October 2015, Brussels

Maritime Logistics Institute

- 18 November 2015, Antwerp (morning)

Rail Institute

- 18 November 2015, Antwerp (afternoon)

CLECAT Freight Forwarders Forum

- 19 November 2015, Antwerp

Board & General Assembly

- 20 November 2015, Antwerp

OTHER EVENTS with CLECAT PARTICIPATION

EC Conference on Land Transport Security Incident Reporting

- 6-7 October 2015, Brussels

EC Conference on Boosting Investments in Transport

- 22 October 2015, Brussels

GLEC Consultation meeting

- 28 October 2015, Brussels

EC Conference on the 2011 White Paper: achievements and challenges

- 12 November 2015, Brussels

FERRMED Conference

- 12 November 2015, Brussels

FEPOR Conference

- 3 December 2015, Brussels

ACEA Conference

- 3 December 2015, Brussels

EU Commission Rail Freight Day 2015 Conference

- 4 December, Vienna

EU meetings

European Parliament

Transport Committee

- 12 October 2015, (afternoon), Brussels
- 13 October 2015, (morning and afternoon), Brussels