1. Creation of new FIATA Bodies

It is FIATA’s pleasure to announce the creation of two new Advisory Bodies and one new Working Group at the 2014 Headquarters’ Session in Zurich. The first of the bodies is a formalised version of the previous International Group, called the Advisory Body International Affairs (ABIA).

In order to assist FIATA in transitioning the industry to a more digital format, eDocuments and eCommerce for example, the Advisory Body Information Technology (ABIT) was established.

Finally to address changes in legal requirements dealing with dangerous goods, China’s new DG laws for example, the Working Group Dangerous Goods has been added to Advisory Body Security Matters. With this addition ABSM is changing its name to Advisory Body Safety and Security (ABSS).

More information about the new bodies will be made available on the FIATA website: http://www.fiata.com/

2. A Successful 6th Market Place Seminar

FIATA together with the International Union of Railways (UIC) successfully held the 6th edition of the Market Place Seminar at the Government’s Palace in Trieste on 2 and 3 of April 2014; with the collaboration of the “Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia”. The conference was entitled “Strategic Interchange between sea and rail freight: What’s new?” It was co-hosted by FEDESPEDI and support by CLECAT and IBS.

The Market Place Seminar was successful in driving the point that combining transport modes must be as efficient as possible. In this respect freight forwarders are adamant that in long distance transport of goods the share of rail legs should increase.

The whole transport chain should bring efficiency and satisfy the customer with more cooperation and partnerships, the 6th Market Place Seminar is the embodiment of this cooperation and commitment to efficiency and customer satisfaction.

All Market Place presentations can be downloaded from the dedicated website: http://marketplaceseminar.org/Presentations-23.html

3. FIATA’s Participation in New York - UN SDSN Side-Event on Indicator Report April 4

On April 4, 2014, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in collaboration with the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) hosted a side event providing civil society groups and NGOs one last opportunity to provide feedback on this version of the draft report Indicators for Sustainable Development Goals for which the deadline for the submission of written comments was March 28.

FIATA was in attendance to strengthen its comments submitted prior to the deadline and contribute to the discussion of promote healthy indicators that would ensure the implementation of the designed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For more information on the event please visit http://unsdsn.org/news/2014/03/24/un-sdsn-side-event-on-indicator-report-april-4/
4. **RAME Field Meeting 2014**

RAME’s annual Field Meeting will be held June 18 - 20, 2014 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. This session is expected to be well-attended and will offer excellent opportunities for networking with representatives from the Region. For more information and instructions for registration, please visit the dedicated event website at the following link: [http://www.fiata.com/index.php?id=437&L=-1%22](http://www.fiata.com/index.php?id=437&L=-1%22)

5. **Registration starts for the 8th RAP Field Meeting in Beijing, P.R. China**

FIATA encourages all delegates from the region to seize this valuable opportunity to network and to address specific and relevant regional topics. FIATA invites all delegates from the Region Asia Pacific, as well as those with interests in the region, to the upcoming RAP Field Meeting in Beijing.

We are grateful for the hospitality, support, contribution and assistance we are receiving from the China International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFA) for their help in arranging this meeting to make it successful.

This will be the 8th meeting of its kind and will be held in conjunction with the UNESCAP Regional Conference/Forum for Freight Forwarders, Multimodal Transport Operators and Logistics Service Providers. FIATA’s meeting will be held on 19 June 2014 while the one of UNESCAP will take place on 20 June.

The deadline for registration is Monday, 19 May 2014.

For more information and instructions on the registration procedure please visit the following link: [http://www.fiata.com/index.php?id=437&L=-1%22](http://www.fiata.com/index.php?id=437&L=-1%22)

6. **UNCEFACT commits full support to the implementation of the WTO Bali Trade Facilitation Agreement**

The 20th Plenary session of the UNCEFACT took place in Geneva from 10 to 11 April, alongside the 23rd UNCEFACT Forum attended by 150 experts from over 30 countries and International Organisations. Following the WTO Bali Agreement, and as preparations are made for its formal implementation, the goal of facilitating international trade has been globally acknowledged and is at the heart of increasing efforts to provide more effective and efficient services for governments, the private sector and citizens. Recognition was given to the great value of UNCEFACT’s long-standing role in providing globally relevant trade facilitation recommendations and standards and renewed attention was given to supporting the WTO Bali Agreement.

A new management team under the leadership of the existing UNCEFACT Chair, Mr Feder, was elected and now includes the following Vice Chairs from government: Mr Fantetti (Italy), Ms Igwe (Nigeria), Mr Khan (India), Mr Van Burg (the Netherlands) and Vice Chairs from the private sector: Mr Grangard (Sweden) and Mr Thompson (the United States). They were elected for a period of three years.

The next UNCEFACT Forum will take place in New Delhi, India, in October 2014.
7. Recommendation on Authentication of Trade Documents

The 20th Plenary of UN/CEFACT approved the revised version of Recommendation 14 on “Authentication of Trade Documents.” The original text, written in 1979, was visionary for its time but after thirty years of existence it needed to be revised to reflect modern technology. The approved text is a completely new recommendation on the same theme and based on the same principles. The recommended practices build on those of 1979 and expand to finally suggest:

- removal of the requirement for a signature except where essential for the function of the document
- introduction of other methods to authenticate documents
- creation of a legal framework that permits and gives equal status to authentication methods other than manual-ink signature
- regular review of documentation used for domestic and cross border trade, possibly by a joint public and private sector effort

This text in very plain, non-technical language seeks to give guidance to high-level deciders, but taking into account some very practical aspects. To find more information, the official text is available at: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/cf_plenary/plenary14/ECE_TRADE_C_CEFACT_2014_6E_Rec14.pdf