

# FIATA

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## Promoting Sustainable Distribution to the Global Market

### THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Consumer demand has created and continues to fuel prosperous economies that now sustain in many ways, our daily lives. Products from all over the world are almost immediately available at our door step and at affordable prices. This could not happen without efficient and reliable transport. Reliable freight distribution is essential to enable continued growth of the global economy. Curbing in any form the transportation needs may and could possibly effect economic development and the prosperity it brings.

### THE FREIGHT FORWARDER

#### Managing the Supply Chain

The role of the forwarder has constantly evolved to meet the demands of the market place. Simply moving freight from A to B, is now only a small element of the services provided by the forwarder. Require new skills and modern technology make it possible for forwarders to handle and manage supply chains that stretch around the world. Effectively managed supply chains need to be continuously evolve processes and enable cost savings and efficiencies.

#### Facilitating Trade

The world's economies are at very different stages of development and this may often create artificial barriers that delay goods and increase costs for the customer. A freight forwarder helps to remove these barriers by managing the documentary requirements and thereby speeding the movement of goods, eliminating wasted time and hence driving.

#### Your Partner in Trade

There is rarely any trade without transport. The forwarders' knowledge of transport, the versatility and diversity of the range of services offered, make him an ideal partner to support international trading. The forwarders' prime responsibility is to safeguard the interests of his customer.

#### Delivering the Goods

The forwarder is rarely the carrier of the goods in the transport chain. Usually he is the organiser of multiple carriage, much like the travel agents arranging holidays.

Transport chains are normally complex, and more often than not involve a logistical plan, hence the tendency for forwarders to present themselves as "logistics service suppliers". The forwarder has been called the "architect of transport" which today could be "managing logistics".

## **FREIGHT FORWARDING**

### **Creating Employment**

Freight distribution generates millions of jobs world-wide and the continued development of trade the industry, is continuing to create new jobs and employment opportunities. FIATA also promotes and encourages the establishment of qualification standards in a wide variety of skills and disciplines.

### **Leading in Technology**

The cost of investing in the latest technology is in itself at times barrier to trade for some companies. The freight forwarder has already made and continues to make this investment in developing and up grading systems to deliver data to a variety of organisations including banks, carriers and customs authorities around the world. Many forwarders' systems include links to the international trader and their customers to ensure a seamless error free information environment.

### **Promoting the Environment**

Congestion, pollution, safety. These are among the watchwords in today's society. Everyone is aware of them and it is clear that concern for the environment is the responsibility of everyone. The transport industry arguably has a greater responsibility than many, because it is ever visible effects on every ones daily life. Forwarders invest heavily in environmentally friendly transport modes and support policies for cleaner vehicle emissions.

## **FIATA MEMBERS**

FIATA Members are the forwarders trade associations representing the forwarding industry based in all the countries. Forwarders world-wide are organised in associations. We recommend that the customers in need of a forwarders service identify first and foremost that their service provider is a member of their local association. Contact details for national associations can be obtained from the FIATA Secretariat on request, and are also available on the FIATA website [www.fiata.com](http://www.fiata.com)