



*The global voice of freight logistics*

## MEETING DECISION POINTS

**To:** Members of the Customs Affairs Institute (CAI)  
**From:** Madeleine Gourier,  
on behalf of Andrea Tang, CAI Manager and Steve Parker, CAI Chair  
**Subject:** Decision Points of CAI Meeting  
23 February 2021, 13:00 – 14:00 CET  
Meeting scheduled on Zoom

### Attendance

Steve Parker	CAI Chair
Andrea Tang	CAI Manager
Madeleine Gourier	FIATA

Maher Al-Murda'a	Saudi Arabia
Ahmed Antably	Egypt
Momchil Antov	Bulgaria
Marc Bibeau	Canada
Cedomir Bojanic	Slovenia
Krishnan Chelliah	Malaysia
Victor Cruz	Mexico
Edmundas Daukantas	Lithuania
Jorge Heinermann	Argentina
Sheila Mashiri	Zimbabwe
Joseph Obu	Ghana
Cynthia Perisic	Chile
Bruce Rodgers	Canada
Juan Rernando Romero	Honduras
Ville Raevuori	Finland
Farid Saffarzadeh	Iran
Shankar Shinde	India
Merian Sebunya	Uganda
Doris Torres	Philippines
Selcuk Utku	Turkey



Apologies:

Abdel El Aal Ali	Egypt
Nadia Abdul Aziz	UAE
Solomon Addai	Ghana
Nicos Argyrides	Greece
Mariano Fernandez	Argentina
Oswaldo Goncalves de Castro Neto	Brazil
Antti Koukku	Finland
Brenda Rivera	Mexico
Samir Shah	India
Neil Taylor	Chile
Brian Wu	Hong Kong

## 1. Opening of the meeting and welcome by the CAI Chair

The Chair welcomed the participants and thanked them for their presence. The participants noted the FIATA competition policy and agreed to its contents.

Noted the following FIATA Competition Policy:

*“FIATA policy strictly prohibits any discussion or other communication the purpose or effect of which is to set prices, allocate markets or customers, engage in tying arrangements or refrain from purchasing any goods or services from any particular supplier or vendor. It is mandatory that you familiarise yourself with [FIATA’s written antitrust policy](#) which the Secretariat has made available to all participants.”*

## 2. Approval of minutes of the Customs Affairs Institute meeting held on 10 November 2020

Minutes circulated in relation to the WG Sea meeting held on 10 November 2020.

*Decision: Minutes approved.*

## 3. Recent Updates

Noted the impact of COVID-19 for customs administrations, especially regarding the need for digitalization strategy. Underlined the importance of remembering the current situation faced by freight forwarders due to the pandemic, in order to ensure that any benefits from the facilitation, simplification and automatization of the procedures remain.



## FIATA feedback on AEO validation and implementation guidance

Noted FIATA submission in January to the WCO on AEO validation and implementation guidance and thanked the delegates for their feedback and comments. This has been discussed during the WCO SAFE review cycle, providing opportunities for delegates and observers to comment on the. Noted the contentious aspect of the inclusion of policies on forced labour and social responsibilities such as a code of conduct into the AEO criteria, and FIATA's position that those topics go beyond the intended scope of AEO programs whilst possibly excluding small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) from AEO programs as a result. Noted the work undertaken by the PSCG to formulate a position on the matter, with the majority of PSCG members being in line with the position of FIATA.

*Decision: FIATA to continue to monitor the situation and keep the CAI delegates informed.*

## 12<sup>th</sup> session of the WCO Capacity Building Committee

Noted the ongoing 12<sup>th</sup> session of the Capacity Building Committee at the WCO and the valuable discussions arising from the document-based phase. Underlined the importance of the WCO COVID-19 Project funded by the government of Japan and its drafted guidelines on disaster management and supply chain continuity. These propose a set of practices and recommendations to be implemented by Customs administrations to improve disaster management.

Noted the implementation of the Mercator Program, a strategic initiative to support members and government worldwide in navigating their implementation of the WCO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), especially through "tailor-made" assistance and capacity building support. Indicated the list of new/updated tools to assist on the matter.

Valued the WCO members feedback and general comments on the successful implementation of WCO programmes, including digitalization initiatives in various countries, such as the use of mobile technologies, digital Express Delivery Shipments with advance clearance, and paperless processing.

*Decision: FIATA to continue to monitor the ongoing session.*

## FIATA considerations on the effective delivery of COVID-19 vaccines

Noted the WCO publication on the matter, referring to both their support and continuous work for the vaccine delivery. Also noted the publication of [FIATA considerations on the effective delivery of COVID-19 vaccines](#) on the WCO website.

*Decision: FIATA to continue to monitor the situation.*

## 4. E-Commerce Annual Review

Noted the WCO annual review of two annexes of the E-Commerce package, namely the Reference Dataset tool and the Revenue Collection. Thanked the delegates for their responses to the recent



survey circulated by FIATA on this. Noted that most of the delegates agreed as to the importance of many elements in the dataset, whilst noting the need not to overload customs with too many data requirements.

Noted the different revenue collection approaches cited in the WCO E-Commerce Package. Noted delegates' preference for the buyer-consumer approach as opposed to the intermediary-based approach, as the latter approach was considered to add an undue burden of collection on the freight forwarding process, particularly in the context of e-commerce shipments. Also noted that in certain transactions, the absence of commercial relationship between the freight forwarder and the party importing the goods would render the intermediary-based approach impossible. Discussed recent customs initiatives where the responsibility of collecting duties and taxes is taken away from the custom broker, back to the importer. Considered that ultimately, it has to be the importer or the consumer's responsibility, especially in e-commerce. Noted that the buyer-consumer approach is more in line with what is being done nowadays and that there is no wish for a different process for e-commerce.

*Decision: FIATA to shape its feedback to the WCO on the E-Commerce Annual Review in line with the discussions with CAI delegates.*

## 5. E-Commerce Periodic Review

Noted that FIATA has been invited to provide its proposals in relation to the entire WCO E-Commerce Package by July 2021, as part of the 4-yearly periodic review of the Package. Discussed the position of platforms, such as Amazon and Alibaba, which are big stakeholders in the e-commerce industry but may not necessarily take much interest in compliance or existing requirements. Considered the position of the freight forwarding industry towards those platforms, and whether freight forwarders should insist on their involvement. Recalled difficulties to monitor and enforce compliance due to the lack of infrastructure, especially in relation to large multinationals. Noted the need to ensure that their interest and engagement on the matter is equal to that of the forwarders. Also noted the possibility to engage with the PSCG on the matter, should the subject be actively discussed within the consultative group.

Introduced the 8 guiding principles of the E-Commerce package, and considered that these could be discussed during subsequent working meetings in order to have adequate time for reflection and feedback, and to gather meaningful feedback for the WCO review.

*Decision: Next CAI meeting to include discussion on Advance Electronic Data and Risk Management. CAI delegates to consider input and feedback for further discussion during that meeting.*



## 6. Open discussion on 2021 priorities

Discussed possible 2021 priorities for CAI, noting that there will be a need to formulate its priorities and possible deliverables for the upcoming year during the FIATA Week session.

Noted the need to continue to monitor the ongoing work at the WCO on AEO and the E-Commerce Package review, particularly given the significant shift due to COVID in e-commerce, and the issues within the maritime context which continues to be under strain. Noted the added complexities to the process, notably the lack of equipment for customs systems in the maritime sector to deal with this type of volume.

Noted the importance to continue to monitor the increase of reliance on new technologies and the impact on the freight forwarding industry.

## 7. Date and time of next meeting

Noted the CAI meeting during the FIATA Week on Wednesday, 24 March at 11:45-12:30 CET. Considered possibility of meeting in a few weeks once the CAI Manager and CAI Chair have defined a suitable date.

*Decision: CAI Manager to send invitation and meeting documents for the next meeting once a date has been defined.*