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FRANCE

Major developments at the port of Cherbourg

The lengthening of the quay by 320 m to a total length of 680 m, has been completed. This extension will enable the optimization of the handling and transshipment of heavy loads. Moreover, the dredging works have increased the draught to 14 m and larger vessels can now call at the port of Cherbourg.

In 2014, the container yards of the harbor will be extended by 96 acres. The project will require investments of 60 million Euros and is expected to be completed by 2016. The port of Cherbourg will then cover a surface area of nearly 250 acres of land.

Japanese group Amada will invest € 40 million in three manufacturing sites

The Japanese group Amada specialised in machine tooling, will invest € 40 million in three French manufacturing sites namely at Château-du-Loir, Charleville-Mézières and Auffay.

CMA CGM will apply a Peak season surcharge

The French shipping company CMA CGM will apply as from the 6th January 2014, a peak season surcharge of US \$ 300 per TEU on all containers moving from all Asian ports (including Japan, South East Asia and Bangladesh) to West Mediterranean and East Mediterranean regions, the Adriatic, Black Sea and North Africa.

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INDIA

Increasing cooperation between Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Port Authority of Antwerp

The Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Port Authority of Antwerp. The region of Madras exports IT products as well as cars through the port of Chennai which is considered as the main gateway to South India. The MoC is expected to further increase the volume of freight coming from Madras which will pass through Antwerp in Belgium to enter the markets of different European countries. In 2012, 4.3 million tons of cargo from India transited through the port of Antwerp.

Tata Group and Singapore Airlines will launch an aviation company

The Tata Group of India and Singapore Airlines have formed a joint venture to launch an aviation company to service India's domestic market but also international routes. The new company Tata SIA Airlines Ltd is held at 51% by the Tata Group while the Singaporean air carrier owns the remaining 49%. An initial investment of US \$100 million is planned to launch the airline by next year after all the required clearances will be obtained.

Operating profit expected for Air India

Financial analysts expect Air India to achieve for the first time since 2007, an operating profit in 2012-13, following the rationalisation of routes, the phasing out of old planes, freezing of recruitment in non-operational areas and other cost-cutting initiatives.



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MADAGASCAR

Private sector enterprises want removal or reduction of non-tariff barriers

Representatives of the private sector have asked the Government of Madagascar to enter into negotiation with the governments of countries which import agricultural products from Madagascar so as to remove or reduce non-tariff barriers.

More than 80% of the active population of that country work in the primary sector. However, export of agricultural products account for only 28% of the GDP due to non-tariff barriers set by importing countries. A recent survey carried out by the International Trade Centre on a hundred enterprises of Madagascar, indicated that the requirements of foreign countries especially from the European Union such as France and Belgium, are often considered too difficult to satisfy. The International Trade Centre has recommended administrative reforms to reinforce sanitary controls and the sharing of norms through the chain of production.

A one-stop shop for export will be created

The International Trade Board of Madagascar (ITBM) has been launched to curb down the trade deficit. A one-stop shop for export will be created within that structure to lighten administrative procedures.

Customs online system Tradenet implemented at Sava

After the regions of Toamasina, Antananarivo, Mahajanga, Antsiranana, Tolagnaro, Antsirabe and Nosy Be, the customs online system Tradenet has been implemented in the area of Sava since the 16th December.



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MAURITIUS

Changes in excise duties and VAT

In line with the sustainable development of Mauritius, the Government of Mauritius will as from the 1st January 2014, extend the 25% excise duty on energy inefficient products to cover air conditioners, tumble dryers and electric lamps.

A 30% excise duty will also be applied on fireworks.

Furthermore, the 15% VAT will be removed on medical, surgical and laboratory sterilisers; X-ray film and photographic plates for medical purposes as well as on bio-pesticides.

Code share agreement between Air Mauritius and Virgin Australia

Since the 10th December, Air Mauritius has entered into a code share agreement with Virgin Australia, enabling it to expand its reach in Australia beyond Perth. Air Mauritius is able to sell its code on Virgin Australia flights beyond Perth, to and from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

New runway and jetty at the island of Agalega

The Government of Mauritius will build a runway in the island of Agalega to enable the landing of planes of the type of the Dornier or of the ATR 72. Furthermore, a new jetty 150 metres long will also be constructed for cargo ships to berth.



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MOZAMBIQUE

MSC announces GRI on cargo from Asia to Mozambique

Shipping company MSC (Mediterranean Shipping Company) will implement as from the 1st January 2014, a General Rate Increase (GRI) on all cargo moving from any Asian port to Mozambique, South Africa, East Africa as well as Indian Ocean ports. A surcharge of US \$ 300 per TEU will be applied.

Extension of the ASAF service between Asia and the port of Maputo

Since the 4th December, the shipping company CMA CGM has added a direct call to Nansha (China) in its weekly fixed-day ASAF service which connects Asia and the African ports of Maputo in Mozambique, Durban (South Africa), Luanda (Angola) and Pointe Noire (Republic of Congo).

Nansha is the third port of South China which is covered by the ASAF service in addition to Hong Kong and Chiwan. The CGM CMA vessels of the ASAF service also call at Shanghai, Ningbo, Singapore and Port Kelang.

Mozambique will be exporting LNG

Mozambique will start to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) as from 2018, especially to Asian countries.

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation of India has agreed to buy a stake in the offshore field. The Russian gas company Gazprom and China's National Petroleum Corp. have expressed their interest.



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REUNION ISLAND

Air link between the Seychelles and Reunion island as from October 2014

Air Seychelles, the carrier of the Seychelles island, will schedule two flights per week between Seychelles and Reunion island as from October 2014. The air link will be established with an Airbus A 319 plane.

Air Seychelles is expanding its network after its partnership with the airline of Abu Dhabi, Etihad.

50 million Euros to be invested in a commercial centre

Two leading businessmen of Reunion Island, Abdoul Cadjee and Noor Locate will invest 50 million Euros in the commercial centre of Casabona in the town of St. Pierre. The construction works will begin in the second semester of 2014.

15 000 square metres of shops and 5 000 square metres of offices, will be delivered 2 years later.

Partnership agreement between the Customs Services and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Customs Services and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Reunion Island have signed a partnership agreement for the customs services to advise and facilitate the international development of local enterprises especially those which export.



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OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

The P3 Global Alliance has raised the concern of the Global Shippers' Forum

The P3 Global Alliance which will regroup shipping lines Maersk, CMA CGM and MSC, has raised the concern of the Global Shippers' Forum (GSF).

GSF has sent to the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) of the United States, a series of questions pertaining to the potential effects of that alliance on competition. The secretary general of GSF, Chris Welsh said that "the more the costs are common, the greater the need for the P3 partners to demonstrate how they are going to compete on price."

Increased frequency by the G6 Alliance

The G6 Alliance which consists of shipping companies APL, Hapag-Lloyd, Hyundai Merchant Marine, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Nippon Yusen Kaisha and Orient Overseas Container Line, will increase their sailing frequency in the Asia-North America West Coast and Trans-Atlantic trade lanes.

The G6 Alliance plans to deploy 76 ships across 12 services connecting 27 Asian and North America West Coast ports. The new services are expected to start in the second quarter of 2014, after obtaining regulatory approval.

Merger talks between 2 shipping companies

Shipping companies Hapag-Lloyd and CSAV are discussing a possible merger that would lead to the world's fourth-largest container carrier.

Hapag-Lloyd is currently ranked 6th with a fleet of 723 804 TEU and CSAV, 19th with a capacity of 294 176 TEU.