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15/1/2015

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LATEST LOGISTICS AND FORWARDING NEWS

FRANCE

CMA CGM increases the frequency of call of its vessels between Europe and Africa

The French shipping company CMA CGM will improve its offer for its African and European clients. There will be 2 services per week from Europe and the Mediterranean to Africa instead of one. The EURAF 1 service will call as from the 22nd January, at the following ports each week: Dunkirk, Antwerp, Le Havre, Montoir, Tangiers, Dakar, Abidjan, Dakar, Tangiers and Dunkirk.

Furthermore, strategic calls at the ports of Hamburg and London Gateway are scheduled on the way to Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast with the EURAF 2 service. As from the 25th January, it will do the following weekly rotation: Antwerp, Hamburg, London Gateway, Tangiers, TinCan (Nigeria), Tema (Ghana), Abidjan (Ivory Coast) and Antwerp.

Lighter aluminium pallets for Air France

Air France has introduced a new aluminium pallet which is 17kg lighter than the standard pallet but just as strong. The new 83kg pallets will gradually replace all the previous pallets weighing 100 kg each. Through this move, Air France will not only reduce its fuel consumption but also its CO2 footprint.

New weekly service between Dunkirk and several ports of China

Since the 1st January 2015, the Ocean Three alliance (CMA CGM, China Shipping Container Lines and the United Arab Shipping Company) offers a new weekly route to the port of Dunkirk in France from Chinese ports such as Tianjin, Dalian, Qingdao, Shanghai and Yantian, as well as from other key Asian and Middle Eastern ports including Busan, Kelang, Beirut and Jeddah.



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INDIA

India's Foreign minister invited Korean companies to enter into joint-ventures with Indian ones for the production of LNG tankers

The Foreign minister of India, Sushma Swaraj during her recent official visit in Seoul, asked South Korea to look into the joint production with Indian companies of LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) tankers in the context of the 'Make in India' programme.

The LNG tankers would cater for the growing energy needs of India. The Foreign minister of India also asked the government of South Korea to give greater market access to Indian pharmaceutical products and software, by lowering the trade barriers.

Boeing wants to establish a production base in India

The United States plane manufacturer Boeing intends to set up a production base in India as an integral part of its global supply chain. In addition to commercial planes, Boeing is specialised in defence, space and security systems.

Boeing already operates a factory in Nagpur with TAL, a company belonging to the Tata group and where composite floor beams for the Boeing 787 are produced.

'Make in India' campaign

The chairman of the Tata group in India, Cyrus Mistry said that the 'Make in India' campaign led by the government, holds the "promise of re-igniting growth in the years to come".

The 'Make in India' campaign focuses on innovation in the production of goods in India.

MADAGASCAR

Three companies have applied for an AGOA eligibility certificate

Three manufacturing companies of Madagascar namely General Garment, Mklen and Festival, have submitted their corporate profile to the local Ministry of Industry and Development of Small and Medium Enterprises of the Private Sector.

They have applied for an AGOA (Africa Growth and Opportunity Act) eligibility certificate to be able to export duty-free and quota-free to the United States. The officers of the ministry will visit the companies, make an evaluation and verify their compliance to AGOA requirements.

An air link between Madagascar and Hong Kong in the near future

An agreement was signed in the middle of December 2014 between the authorities of Madagascar and those of Hong Kong to establish an air link between the two countries.

According to the Minister of Transport of Madagascar, Ulrich Andriantina, it will contribute to improve commercial transactions.

Madagascar says no to plastic bags

According to a bill of law, the import of plastic bags will be prohibited as from the 1st February 2015 and their local production, distribution and use will be forbidden on the 1st May 2015.



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MAURITIUS

Export-oriented enterprises

According to Statistics Mauritius, there were 312 export-oriented enterprises operating in Mauritius at the end of September 2014.

The export-oriented enterprises are businesses which were previously operating with an EPZ (export processing zone) certificate but also those manufacturing goods for exports and holding a registration certificate issued by the Board of Investment.

The last export-oriented enterprise to date is a company producing bone substitutes for orthopaedic and dental surgery.

Direct flights between Mauritius and the city of Chengdu in China

Authorities of the city of Chengdu in the South-West of China, have announced that there will be weekly direct flights between that city and Mauritius as from the 5th February 2015.

An Air Mauritius A340-300 plane will service the new route between Mauritius and the Chinese provincial capital. Chengdu will be the fourth city of China after Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong to have a direct air link with Mauritius.

Freeport services to be revamped

The Freeport services of Mauritius will be revamped with greater emphasis on e-commerce and revenue generating services such as preparation, packing and palletisation.



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MOZAMBIQUE

China has now become the third leading trading partner of Mozambique

According to His Excellency Li Chunhua, the ambassador of China in Mozambique, trade between the two countries increased from 1.64 billion US dollars in 2013 to 2.94 billion in 2014. China has now become the third leading trading partner of Mozambique (after South Africa and the European Union). Mozambican exports to China from January to October 2014, exceeded one billion dollars.

“Areas of cooperation have expanded from the traditional areas, such as public health, culture and education into agriculture, infrastructures, electricity, transport and communication, production of building materials, vehicle assembly, and tourist installations, among others”, said the ambassador of China.

CMA CGM connects all continents with Malawi every week

The shipping company CMA CGM provides the transportation of containers either by road or by rail, to the major locations of land-locked Malawi namely Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu. The containers are loaded or disembarked at the ports of Beira or Nacala in Mozambique. CMA CGM has 3 dedicated services which call at Beira and Nacala: the Mozex, Swahili and Rhino Express services.

New international airport in Nacala

A new international airport was inaugurated last month in the port city of Nacala located in the North of Mozambique. US \$ 200 million were invested in the construction of the airport which can accommodate long-distance planes including Boeing 747s.



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REUNION ISLAND

New route between Reunion Island and Portugal via Mozambique under study

The air carrier of Reunion Island, Air Austral has entered into business talks with the airline of Mozambique LAM to establish a link between Reunion Island and Lisbon airport in Portugal via Maputo in Mozambique.

If the talks conclude successfully, Air Austral will consider the acquisition of two Boeing 787.

Air Austral looks for a medium capacity aircraft

Air Austral fleet has up to now been composed mainly of Boeing planes. The 3 Boeing B 777-300 (ER) are suited to service long haul routes between Reunion Island and Paris Charles de Gaulle airport.

However, these planes have a too large capacity for other routes which Air Austral has now abandoned such as to Sydney (Australia) and Nouméa (New Caledonia). In the near future, the air carrier might purchase a medium capacity Airbus A 350 aircraft.

Air freight statistics

According to latest statistics from Rolland Garros airport, between January and November 2014, 17 124 tons of cargo had been unloaded, an 8.6% growth compared to the same period in 2013.

Moreover, 5 705 tons of freight were uplifted during the 11 months of 2014 compared to 5 130 tons from January to November of year 2013.



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OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

A close watch on the alliances which the global shipping lines want to establish

The new Commissioner for Competition of the European Union, Margrethe Vestager has told the press that they will keep a close watch on the alliances which the global shipping lines want to establish.

The 2M alliance, a partnership between Maersk Line and Mediterranean Shipping Co. but also, the G6, Ocean Three and CKYHE alliances, are raising concern among shippers. The Competition Commission of the European Union will not give any green light but will monitor and investigate any case that interferes with competition.

CMA CGM will apply a General Rate Restoration on some routes

The shipping company CMA CGM will introduce as from the 5th February 2015, a General Rate Restoration (GRR) on all cargo moving from India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka ports to North Europe, Mediterranean Sea, Scandinavia, Baltic, Black Sea, North Africa, Central American, Caribbean and South America.

The GRR will be applicable both on dry and reefer containers. It will be US \$ 400 per 20 feet container and US \$ 600 per 40 feet container.

Imports from Russia negatively hit

A spokesman from Maersk Line said that Russian imports are "struggling across the board" due to the economic crisis that hit that country and its weakened currency, the rouble.