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LATEST LOGISTICS AND FORWARDING NEWS

FRANCE

Air France will launch a new air route between Paris and Krakow (Poland)

After Warsaw, Air France will serve a second destination in Poland, Krakow, between the 4th July and the 28th August 2016. Four flights per week are scheduled. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, an Airbus A 319 will take off from Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport and on Sundays, the flight will be operated by an Airbus A318.

Additional costs for trucks transporting freight at Calais

David Sagnard, the regional representative of FNTR, the leading road haulage federation, stated to the press that the problem of migrants trying to cross the Channel from the port of Calais, France is causing additional costs for trucks transporting freight.

“What shouldn't be forgotten is that each time one of our trucks crosses to the UK there's an additional waiting time of one hour for our drivers.” In addition, the trucks have to be equipped with additional security measures so that migrants cannot have access to the inside of the containers.

CMA CGM will upgrade its service to the French West Indies

As from April 2016, the vessels of CMA CGM linking Europe to the French West Indies each week will call at two additional ports (Zeebrugge and Rotterdam) so as to offer more transshipment connections.

The vessels will link Dunkirk, Zeebrugge, Rotterdam, Le Havre, Montoir de Bretagne, Pointe à Pitre, Fort de France, Pointe à Pitre and Dunkirk.



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INDIA

The privatisation of Air India in the pipeline?

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, has always stated the wish of his government for “minimum government, maximum governance”.

A panel of senior officials constituted by Modi has recommended the privatisation of Air India so as to achieve the required transformational changes. However, the Prime Minister of India has not reacted to their recommendation on divestment. Air India is making heavy losses since several years but it has up to now being very difficult for the different governments to build political consensus on withdrawing from its shareholding.

New freight rates for CMA CGM vessels

The shipping company CMA CGM will upwardly review its freight tariffs from India as well as Pakistan and Sri Lanka to North Europe, Scandinavia, Baltic, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, North Africa, Central America and Caribbean, South America.

The rate restoration will be applicable as from the 3rd March (Bill of lading date). An additional amount of US \$ 300 per 20 feet dry & reefer container or US \$ 600 per 40 feet box will have to be paid.

India on the way to become a net importer of foodstuffs

India may become in the coming years a net importer of foodstuffs due to its falling agricultural output. In January, India had to purchase corn from other countries for the first time since 16 years. Furthermore, India is increasingly importing lentils and oil meals.



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MADAGASCAR

Part of Air Madagascar will be privatised

The Director General of Air Madagascar, Gilles Filiatreault said to the press that part of the company will be privatised. Air Madagascar will be looking for private and public partnerships. Concerning the temporary suspension of the air link between Antananarivo and Bangkok as well as Guangzhou, Gilles Filiatreault pointed out that negotiations will start with Air Austral, the air carrier of Reunion Island, to begin a new air route between Antananarivo, St. Denis (Reunion Island) and Guangzhou. These talks might need 5 to 6 months to be completed.

Air Madagascar will also initiate cost-cutting initiatives by reviewing the number of its flights to Africa where it is losing 2 million dollars per year.

CMA CGM has improved its port coverage of North Madagascar

The shipping company CMA CGM has extended since the end of January 2016, its feeder coverage to the ports of the North of Madagascar namely Nossi Be and Antsiranana (Diego Suarez) in addition to Majunga.

The fortnightly service is operated by a vessel having a capacity of 738 TEU.

The port of Tamatave is awaiting the financial aid of the Japanese Government

If the Government of Japan grants its financial aid, the port of Tamatave may witness major changes by year 2017 especially the construction of a new container terminal over a surface area of 10 acres and the erection of a new quay which will be 320 metres long.



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MAURITIUS

The Government of Mauritius bans the export of scrap metals including copper

The Government of Mauritius has taken the decision to ban the export of scrap metals including copper.

Furthermore, to exercise a better control and regulation on the business of selling of scrap metals, the steel manufacturing plants of Mauritius or any other buyer of scrap metals will have to pay to operators of scrap metal, the international market rate, exclusive of export charges (freight and insurance).

More flights between Mauritius and Australia expected in the near future

Mauritius has signed a Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) with Australia to further facilitate the movement of goods between the two countries.

Several airlines will be designated by each country and they will be entitled to operate up to 7 flights per week between Mauritius and Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. Currently, Air Mauritius has two to three flights per week to Perth.

Air Mauritius ends third quarter of its current financial year with profits

For the financial year 2015/ 16, Air Mauritius has released the figures for the third quarter which ended on the 31st December 2015. The carrier generated profits of 10.5 million euros while it made losses of 2.7 million euros during the same period in 2014. Air Mauritius has taken advantage of the lower fuel prices and increased operating revenues.



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MOZAMBIQUE

Direct flights between Maputo (Mozambique) and Doha (Qatar)

As from March, Qatar Airways will establish direct flights with a large aircraft, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, between Doha (Qatar) and Mozambique.

Currently, there are 2 flights per week between Maputo and Doha, with a stop-over at Johannesburg in both directions.

By removing the stop-over in Johannesburg, the duration of the Maputo-Doha flight will be reduced by two hours.

The import of plastic bags less than 30 micrometres thick forbidden

Since the 5th February, following a decree of the Government of Mozambique, the production, import or sale of plastic bags that are less than 30 micrometres thick, are outlawed.

This decision has been taken due to the environmental problems caused by the thin black plastic bags that block the drainage system of the capital, Maputo.

However, such bags can still be used to hold rubbish or to weigh items but they cannot be used to pack food.

New air link between Maputo and Paris in the near future

Air France has entered into negotiations with the Mozambican government to operate direct flights between Paris and Maputo this year.



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REUNION ISLAND

Expansion works at Port Reunion completed

The port of Reunion Island wants to become a leading player in the maritime trade in the Indian Ocean. The expansion and modernisation works initiated in August 2014, requiring investments of 80 million euros, have just been completed.

The new look East Port now has a longer quay, 640 metres long and a deeper basin of 15.5 metres.

CMA CGM targets transshipment of 100 000 TEUs by 2017

According to Bernard Elie, director of the shipping company CMA CGM in Reunion Island, "with this new infrastructure, it will be possible in 2017 to reach the goal of 100,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) handled every year."

Furthermore, during the official inauguration of the new port, the Prefect of Reunion Island, Dominique Sorain stressed on the importance of networking to improve "security of port services, reduce costs, pool resources to save time on competition."

A 6th ship to shore crane

Port Reunion is positioning itself as a hub in the Indian Ocean. It will be equipped with a 6th ship to shore crane which will be delivered to that port in May.



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OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

Cosco will enter into a containership charter agreement with China Shipping Container Lines

As from March, Cosco Container Lines Co of China will enter into a containership charter agreement with China Shipping Container Lines (CSCL) for a period of 5 years.

In addition, CSCL will sell its entire service network including shipping subsidiaries to Cosco.

Cosco Container Lines Co of China has filed a petition to obtain an exemption from the competition regulations of the US Federal Maritime Commission (FMC).

A new port at Cherchell in Algeria

The new port of Cherchell in Algeria which is at the initial stage of its construction, might be operated upon its completion in seven years, by Shanghai International Port Group.

China and Algeria have already signed a memorandum of understanding to erect the new port. It will require a total investment of \$3.3 billion, have 23 berths and a handling capacity of 6.5 million TEUs of containers each year.

Imports of the United States may drop in March

The National Retail Federation and consultants Hackett Associates expect that the maritime imports of the United States in March 2016 will fall by 22.4% compared to the same period in 2015.