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LATEST LOGISTICS AND FORWARDING NEWS

FRANCE

Rate restoration by CMA CGM

The French shipping company CMA CGM will apply as from the 1st February 2016, a rate restoration on all cargo moving from India, Pakistan, the Middle East and Gulf countries to the western coast of Africa.

An additional US \$ 500 will be charged on each container of 20 feet.

Partial re-opening of Le Havre multi-modal terminal

The brand new multi-modal terminal of the port of Le Havre has partially re-opened. It closed down only one month after its launching owing to problems related to its IT systems.

The terminal required investments of 140 million.

Two additional ferries between Calais and Dover in February

The Danish shipping line DFDS will put in service as from February, the two ex-MyFerryLink ferries on the Calais-Dover crossing. Thus, there will be 3 DFDS vessels operating on the sea route between France and the United Kingdom.

It was planned that the Danish shipping company would take delivery of the ferries in July of last year after the closure of MyFerryLink. However, this was delayed due to a dispute by French seamen and as a result, the cross-Channel freight service by lorries, was disrupted.



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INDIA

37 new Mega Food Parks

37 new Mega Food Parks will be set up throughout India. Five have already been established. The whole project will require a total investment of Rs 2 billion.

All these Food Parks will offer production, processing plant, cold store, collection and transport facilities.

This governmental initiative will help farmers not only to add value to their crops but also enable them to find new channels of distribution for their products.

A marina project to be developed in the region of Kolkata

Rs 2.5 billion will be invested a marina project. It will consist of a sheltered harbour with a berthing capacity of up to 50 yachts and a residential area. The private yachts will be parked with fuel lines, fresh water supplies and shore power available.

The project will be initiated in mid-2016 and will be located in Howrah near to the city centre of Kolkata.

Heavy investments in the pipeline in Andra Pradesh

The government of the region of Andra Pradesh has signed memoranda of understandings with 32 big companies including the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG), Bharat Forge Group and Ashok Leyland, for investments totalling around Rs 195 billion.



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MADAGASCAR

A feasibility study for the NBSI project at Diego Suarez

A feasibility study will be undertaken for the NBSI (Northern Madagascar Board of Strategic Investments) project at Diego-Suarez. In that context, an agreement has been signed with the president of the airport of Liege in Belgium and the minister of External Trade of Belgium, Jean Claude Marcourt.

The project includes the development of a new airport, the creation of a commercial port and of 300 acres of land to set up an industrial free zone.

Several other infrastructures will be developed and linked to renewable energies (wind and solar) and touristic facilities.

Fall in imports of second-hand vehicles

According to the press, last year, imports of second-hand vehicles have dropped by 30% compared to the previous year due to the extension of excise duty on these products and the tax levied on revenue generated by importers of second-hand vehicles.

More than 90% of the customs operations at Tamatave done electronically

More than 90% of the customs operations at the port of Tamatave are carried out electronically and additional Customs offices will be linked to the system.



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MAURITIUS

The Heritage City project

The Government of Mauritius will set up a company, Heritage City Co. Ltd to drive a new city project in the region of Minissy near Moka.

The project comprises the construction of several landmark iconic buildings that will accommodate the Prime Minister's Office and a new Parliament as well as high rise intelligent buildings for the different ministries and Data Centres of the Government. The aim is to modernize the public sector in this digital era.

In addition, 75 luxury residential units and around 1 200 houses and apartments are planned.

The new Heritage city project also makes provision for food courts, entertainment centres, a Bollywood Theme Park, a city hotel and a solar farm with a capacity of 15 MW.

Dubai promoter wants to invest in hospitality sector

A 7-star hotel will be constructed at Pointe des Lascars in the North of Mauritius by a promoter from Dubai who already manages a world famous 7-star hotel, the Burj-Al-Arab in that country.

Export of seafood expected to rise

Export of seafood is expected to increase in the coming months since the Government has approved many projects to develop the Ocean Economy such as the culture of Cobia in floating cages, marine shrimps species, mud crab, fish, sea cucumber and oyster.



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MOZAMBIQUE

'General Rate Restoration' on all cargo transported by CMA CGM from ports of Asia to Mozambique

The shipping group CMA CGM has introduced since the 15th January 2016, a 'General Rate Restoration' on all cargo that its vessels transport from ports of Asia to Mozambique on its Mozex service.

The ports of Asia include those of Japan, of Southeast Asia and of Bangladesh.

A 'General Rate Restoration' of US \$ 150 per TEU is applicable.

The EU Commission has maintained its ban on Mozambican air companies

Last month, the European Union Commission has maintained all Mozambican air companies on its blacklist, not allowing them to operate in the air space of the European Union due to the regulator, the Mozambique Civil Aviation Authority (IACM) not meeting EU standards since 2011.

Currently, the Portuguese company, TAP is the only European airline which services Maputo. Furthermore, Qatar Airways and Turkish Airlines operate intercontinental routes from Mozambique.

The Governor of the Bank of Mozambique wants reduction in imports

The Governor of the Bank of Mozambique, Ernesto Gove, has stated that to stabilise the country's currency, the metical, imports have to be reduced and domestic production increased. Between January and October 2015, the metical lost 40% of its value compared to the US dollar.



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REUNION ISLAND

A new investor may enter the capital of Air Austral

A new investor from the private sector, the Océinde Group belonging to the Goulamaly family, may enter the capital of Air Austral.

According to the press, the air carrier of Reunion Island has been looking for new investors since two years to consolidate its financial position. For the financial year 2014-2015, Air Austral has generated a positive figure of 6.9 million euros for a turnover of 347 million euros.

Previously, an offer from the Dubreuil Group was rejected as it planned to reduce the workforce by 250 to 3 000 employees.

The price of diesel falls by 7% compared to December 2015

Since the 1st January, the price of diesel has been reduced by 7% compared to the previous month. Lorries transporting freight in Reunion Island have reaped the benefits of purchasing a litre of diesel at 0.93 euro. Six months ago, it was priced at 1.11 euro.

The downward trend is due to overproduction especially in the United States.

More than a third of goods imported by sea from Asia

According to official statistics of Port Reunion, 35.88 % of goods entering the country by sea last year, came from Asia.

OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

The 'One Belt, One Road' initiative

The 'One Belt, One Road' infrastructure project has set as objective the creation of an additional \$ 2.5 trillion of trade during the next decade.

A series of infrastructure investments will be made in countries along the original Silk Road through Central Asia, West Asia, the Middle East and Europe but also along the Maritime Silk Road which covers the South Sea of China, the South Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean.

China will invest or lend approximately \$ 100 billion from its Silk Road Fund and the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank. The investments will help to upgrade existing infrastructure and boost trade volumes.

New freighter route to the United States by Qatar Airways Cargo

Qatar Airways Cargo will launch as from the 19th January a new freighter route to the United States.

A Boeing 777F will fly twice a week and increase the cargo capacity from Liege to Dallas to 1 000 tons per month. Currently, 400 tons of cargo are transported in the belly hold of Qatar Airways passenger flights to Dallas each month.

MSC services Iran again

Mediterranean Shipping Company has resumed since the end of last month, its direct services to Iran after a suspension of 3 years due to economic sanctions imposed by the US and the European Union.