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15/2/2017

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LATEST LOGISTICS AND FORWARDING NEWS

FRANCE

New destinations planned by Air France

As from the 18th July 2017, Air France will schedule flights to Agadir (Morocco) and Palma de Mallorca (Spain) from its hub at Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport. Three flights per week are planned with Airbus A319 and A320 planes.

From the 22nd July to the 9th September 2017, Air France will also operate a new direct service between Nice and Tel Aviv (Israel) with an Airbus A320.

Three new destinations as from Marseille by Air France

As from the 27th July and up to the 1st September 2017, Air France will operate flights to two new destinations, Athens (Greece) and Ibiza (Spain) from Marseille. 4 flights per week are scheduled between Marseille and Athens while between Marseille and Ibiza, there will be 3 flights per week.

Furthermore, starting the 25th July and until the 31st August 2017, Air France will offer two flights per week between Marseille and Stockholm (Sweden). All these flights will be on board an Airbus A 320.

Project of a rail tunnel through the Alps

Tenders will be launched this year for the construction of a rail tunnel of 57 km through the Alps to link Lyon and Turin. 10 billion euros will be invested in this project that is expected to provide a key stimulus to rail freight in Europe.



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INDIA

CMA CGM has applied a 'General Rate Restoration' on cargo from India to West Africa

The shipping company CMA CGM has applied a 'General Rate Restoration' (GRR) since the 15th February on all cargo (including dry and break bulk) transported from India to West Africa.

The GRR amounts to US \$ 200 per TEU.

India, the most attractive in terms of 'Market Size & Growth Attractiveness'

According to the 2017 Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index, India has 'leapfrogged' China to become the highest-rated emerging economy of logistics executives in terms of 'Market Size & Growth Attractiveness'.

More than 800 logistics executives had been surveyed. They viewed India as the emerging market with the most logistics potential and the country where their companies are most likely to invest in 2017.

New service tax rules

Since 22 January 2017, India is applying 4.5% import freight charges on freight prepaid shipments.

The 'Service Tax Rules' have been amended to remove an exemption for freight prepaid shipments.



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MADAGASCAR

Two bidders have been shortlisted to become the shareholder of Air Madagascar

The future strategic partner and shareholder of Air Madagascar will be selected by the end of the first quarter of 2017. Two bidders have been shortlisted for the final round: Air Austral and Ethiopian Airlines, in line with the recommendations of the consultants of Air Madagascar, IOS Partners and TroyAvi.

Furthermore, Ethiopian Airlines plans to launch a new service between Addis Ababa and Antananarivo as from the 28th March 2017. Three flights per week are scheduled on board a Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

A new 4-star hotel near Ivato International Airport

The French hotel group Accor will build near Ivato International Airport, a 4-star hotel of 150 rooms with about 20 presidential suites under the Novotel brand.

Total investments of Accor in partnership with the Eden Group of Madagascar, are estimated at 20 million euros. The construction works will begin this year and are expected to be completed next year so that the new hotel welcomes its first guests in 2019.

Major development at the Customs in the pipeline

The Ministry of Finance and of Budget of Madagascar plans to roll out a system on the web for the follow-up in real time of all the stages of the clearing of goods.



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MAURITIUS

Mauritius to develop a Special Economic Zone in Senegal

A delegation from Senegal has recently visited Mauritius to finalise and sign with the Government of Mauritius, an agreement for the project of jointly developing a Special Economic Zone in Senegal.

Senegal will allocate 53 hectares of land in the City of Diamniadio.

The project comprises the setting up of industrial and business facilities covering a surface area of more than 33,000 square metres on 13 hectares and an Industrial Park on the remaining 40 hectares of land.

AirAsia will suspend its flights between Malaysia and Mauritius

AirAsia will suspend its 3 flights per week between Malaysia and Mauritius, on 25 March 2017 due to operational network restructuration and the rationalisation of aircraft usage.

Two new air carriers might land in Mauritius

The company Norwegian Airlines has expressed its interest to schedule regular flights between Norway and Mauritius.

Furthermore, the air carrier French Blue may establish a direct air link between Paris and Mauritius in 2018.



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MOZAMBIQUE

Boosting trade between Turkey and Mozambique

The Turkish President Erdogan visited Mozambique last month and said to the press that his country will increase its annual trade volume with Mozambique to US \$ 250 million in the first stage and then, to US \$ 500 million.

He also asked Mozambican officials to open an embassy in Turkey.

IFAD will disburse US \$ 25 million to boost food production

The International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) will disburse US \$ 25 million in 2017 to Mozambique, to boost food production.

Small scale producers especially in rural areas will be the main beneficiaries and will have access to modern technologies and increase their production capacities.

Moreover, IFAD will also be involved in the development of the country's aquaculture to increase the value chain in the corridors of Maputo and Limpopo.

Future prospects for the port of Maputo

The port of Maputo may play an important role in the near future as it offers the shortest railway distance to Johannesburg than between the port of Durban in South Africa and the city of Johannesburg.



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REUNION ISLAND

Air Austral has obtained approvals from the US Department of Transportation

Air Austral, the air carrier of Reunion Island, has been granted by the US Department of Transportation an Exemption Authority as well as a Foreign Air Carrier Permit.

Air Austral is thus allowed to carry out charter flights for passengers and cargo from any point or points behind any European Union Member State via any point or points in any European Union Member State and intermediate points to any point or points in the United States and beyond.

Air Austral plans to use its B777s and B787s but no specific dates have been set for the launching of these services.

Strong rise in transshipment traffic at the Port of Reunion Island

The French shipping Group CMA CGM is using the Port of Reunion Island as its hub in the Indian Ocean.

One of the positive impacts of this move has been the solid growth in transshipment traffic at Port Reunion for containers which are redirected to other Indian Ocean islands and to Africa. In 2016, 73 900 TEUs were transhipped compared to 23 300 TEUs in 2015, an increase of 209%.

324 000 TEUs handled at Port Reunion last year

According to latest statistics, in 2016, 324 000 TEUs had been handled at Port Reunion, a 31% growth compared to year 2015.

OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

Concerns about negative impact of protectionism on international trade

Peter Sand, chief shipping analyst at the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), one of the largest international shipping associations, stated that “the protectionist measures avowed by Donald Trump may become a huge issue for the shipping industry across all segments, as they could affect demand and represent a significant backlash against globalisation”.

“As trade restrictive measures can discourage trade flow and have knock on effects on economic growth and job creation, supporting protectionist policies will do more damage than good in the long run.”

Port of London volume up 10% to 50 million tonnes in 2016

The Port of London comprises more than 70 independently operated terminals at different locations along the Thames.

According to latest available statistics, in 2016, cargo handled by the Port of London reached 50 million tonnes, a 10% growth compared to the previous year. Containers and trailers traffic rose by 7% to attain 18 million tonnes.

New environmental regulations coming at the Airport of Brussels

The Airport of Brussels could lose up to 25% of its cargo business as from the 1st March due to Brussels regional government withdrawing the 10% tolerance of the maximum noise levels permitted. Otherwise, the airlines especially those using B747-400 extended-range freighters, will be fined if they exceed the limit.