



Irish International Freight Association
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**Thoughts, Opinions and Concerns from the Irish Freight and Logistics industries
from Irish International Freight Association's BREXIT seminar
Tuesday 21st February 2017
Carlton Hotel Dublin Airport, Old Airport Rd, Cloghran, Dublin**



*L to R, Fionn Uibh Eachach, Director VAT - KPMG Ireland, Frankie Devlin, Partner - KPMG Northern Ireland, Tom Thornton, IIFA President, Deirdre Clune - MEP Ireland/ Member of the Transport Committee - European Parliament and Guest Moderator Anton Savage.
Not pictured, John McGrane, Director General, British Irish Chamber*

On Tuesday 21st February 2017, over 120 Business Leaders from across Ireland's Freight, Logistics and Distribution industries assembled to discuss BREXIT and its potential impact on their industry.

At a seminar organised by Irish International Freight Association (IIFA), Tom Thornton (President, IIFA) updated the Audience on the Associations activities in preparing for BREXIT. In addition to working with Government Departments as a recognised Stake-Holder group, IIFA's key initiative has been its decision to join CLECAT, the European Association for Forwarding, Transport, Logistics and Customs Services, based in Brussels, Belgium. CLECAT represents the interests of more than 19,000 companies employing in excess of 1,000,000 staff in Logistics, Freight Forwarding and Customs Services. Multinational, medium and small Freight Forwarders and Customs agents are all within its Membership, making the organisation the most representative of its kind. Through this Membership, IIFA will have an avenue to voice Ireland's specific industry concerns with a key advocacy within Brussels.

The speaker panel which included Deirdre Clune, MEP – Ireland's representative on the EU Transport Committee, John McGrane, Director General, British-Irish Chamber of Commerce, Frankie Devlin, Partner and Fionn Uibh Eachach, Director VAT, KMPG Ireland. These Speakers collectively provided an insight into continental Europe's reactions to and feelings towards BREXIT, reports on developments since the Referendum in June 2016, plus details on the tax implications arising from potential BREXIT scenarios based on existing Trade Agreements within the European Union.

The final hour of this seminar took a workshop approach through which the assembled Business Leaders were asked to collectively address 6 key questions, with a Guest Moderator (Anton Savage) facilitate fielding answers to the questions from a selection of tables. The first of these questions took the form of a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) and then looked forward to appropriate responses to the anticipated effects of BREXIT from Government perspectives and questioning any areas which may be absent from popular/ mainstream BREXIT dialogue within Ireland.

One key item arising from the Group discussion was recognition that Customs Clearance administration will almost certainly increase once the UK leaves the EU. Whatever form a border will or will not take, it will be necessary to process Customs declarations and appropriate documentation as required. IIFA has been proactive in this area and will later this year launch a Customs Clearance and Practical SAD Competition course in order to provide its Members with the necessary skillset to handle the new requirements of a post-BREXIT Ireland.

While there are a number of suggested avenues to pursue, based on the feedback from this seminar, IIFA would prioritise the following courses of action:

1. Seek recognition from European Union that Ireland is in a unique position and that this situation will be a factor when Negotiations begin.
2. Government to analyse present infrastructure surrounding Ports and Airports. This to include consultation with Trade and Private Transport providers regarding extra capacity Vessels/ Aircraft if deemed necessary.
3. Begin training Revenue staff and Trade in the areas of Customs Clearance.

The workshop session was of vital importance in that the assembled industry Representatives were given the opportunity to volunteer key opinions and concerns for the Freight, Logistics and Transport industries surrounding BREXIT. The aim of this session was for IIFA to collate this information in order to present same to Irish MEPs and relevant Government departments. With an Audience made up of Owner Managers and Senior Level Executives from leading Multi-National companies based in Ireland and all involved in arranging the International Carriage of Goods across International Borders, the information sourced on the day offered insightful information on the real issues facing Ireland as the one EU Member that will be greatest effected by BREXIT, a vote the Country had no participation in. Attendees also included such company Representatives from the North of Ireland and related services such as Shipping Lines, Customs Brokers, Financial Services and relevant Irish Government Department Representatives.

“BREXIT is the most important and significant issue to happen to Ireland this century,” stated IIFA President Tom Thornton with his closing remarks. With an event that will impact all industries across this Island economy, IIFA will continue to work collaboratively with Government to provide the insight and information that is needed in order to ensure the best possible outcome for Ireland when BREXIT negotiations begin. Tom Thornton also praised the Government for their proactive approach on BREXIT and engagement with trade through various Country wide stakeholder engagements.

Future BREXIT preparations – IIFA’s 5 Point Plan

- 1 Continued engagement with Government departments
- 2 Continued attendance at BREXIT forums
- 3 Direct contact with MEP & TDs and to Lobby EU via CLECAT
- 4 Upskill Irish Freight industry with launch of IIFA Customs Clearance course
- 5 Setup all island workgroup to study frictionless borders

Through the combined work of IIFA Council and the Association Secretariat, two-way communication lines will remain active between IIFA and relevant Official Bodies. IIFA Members are encouraged to support this process by sharing their own thoughts and feedback with the Association Secretariat, thereby lending further strength to its voice as a key Representative body for the Irish Freight, Logistics and Transport industries.

*A full summary of the feedback from the BREXIT seminar is available via:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fd8re8ukt0ru6mo/AAD-Rwq_uIT8teA-2c9sbgTCa?dl=0*

A copy of images from the event and this press release (in PDF and Word formats) is also available via the above link.

*Power Point slides from the event are available via:
<http://iifa.ie/upcoming-events.html>*



About Irish International Freight Association



Irish International Freight Association (IIFA) is the National Representative Body for the Irish Freight Forwarding community. Run by a Council of elected representatives from its membership body, the Association's overall aim is to ensure that the concerns of Members and their Clients are heard and acted upon. With 120 Members nationwide, IIFA members facilitate 90% of Ireland's international trade. IIFA as a recognised industry stake-holder maintains membership of a number of knowledgeable and influential Associations both at National and International level.

IIFA is Ireland's National Association Member of FIATA, the International Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations, based in Zurich, Switzerland and is also a member of CLECAT, the European Association for Forwarding, Transport, Logistics and Customs Services, based in Brussels, Belgium. Locally, Representatives from the IIFA Council sit upon Revenue's Customs Consultative Committee and other relevant stakeholder groups, such as DTTAS' recently formed BREXIT group.

IIFA supports the continuous improvement of the Irish Freight Industry by offering training with an Irish version of the internationally recognized FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding, a 10 module distance learning course that covers the cornerstones of the Freight, Logistics and Transport industry. Initial modules cover transport by Land, Air and Sea while later modules detail important background considerations such as Customs Clearance, Dangerous Goods and Insurance. In September 2017, IIFA will launch a stand-alone Customs Clearance and practical SAD completion course.

Between 3rd – 8th October 2016, IIFA hosted the 2016 FIATA World Congress in Dublin. The FIATA World Congress is the largest annual gathering of the Freight, Logistics and Transport industry from around the World. Over 700 attended and enjoyed a Congress program that was widely praised by all in attendance.

About FIATA



FIATA is the "International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations" and was founded in Vienna/Austria on May 31, 1926. A non-governmental organisation, FIATA now represents an industry covering approximately 40,000 Forwarding and Logistics firms, also known as the "Architects of Transport", employing around 10 million people in 160 countries.

FIATA has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (inter alia ECE, ESCAP, ESCWA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). It is recognised as representing the freight forwarding industry by many other governmental organisations, governmental authorities, private international organisations in the field of transport such as the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Union of Railways (UIC), the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), etc.

In summary FIATA is the largest non-governmental organisation in the field of transportation. Its influence is worldwide.

Each year FIATA hosts an International Congress, bringing together high level Speakers addressing the future of the global freight industry and allowing its member significant networking opportunities. FIATA National Association members bid for the opportunity to host this prestigious event and a successful host Country is selected by FIATA's Congress Committee and Extended Board three years in advance. Ireland put together a strong bid in 2013 and was announced as a finalist alongside Qatar and South Africa in June of that year. Two Delegates from Ireland travelled to the 2013 FWC in Singapore and successfully promoted Ireland as the destination for 2016.

There were 16 Founding Members of FIATA, a global group of National Association Bodies for their Countries Freight and Customs Brokerage industries. Today, FIATA lists over 100 National Association Members amongst its wider Membership. As 2016 was the 90th Anniversary of FIATA, this event was incorporated into the 2016 Dublin Congress.

About CLECAT



CLECAT represents the interests of more than 19,000 companies employing in excess of 1,000,000 staff in Logistics, Freight Forwarding and Customs services. Multinational, medium and small Freight Forwarders and Customs agents are all within its membership, making the organisation the most representative of its kind.

European Freight Forwarders and Customs agents clear around 95% of all goods in Europe and handle 65% of the cargo transported by road, 95% of the cargo transported by air and 65% of cargo transport by ship. Freight Forwarders also use Rail Freight, Inland Waterways and Intermodal transport. They make extensive use of IT systems, dedicated terminals and Warehousing to respond to the needs of their Customers.

CLECAT has over 20 national organisations of European freight related service providers in its membership.

The association was established in 1958 as the 'European Liaison Committee of Common Market Forwarders' – also "Comité de Liaison Européen des Commissionnaires et Auxiliaires de Transport du Marché Commun" (CLECAT). CLECAT is based in Brussels with a permanent secretariat and offices close to the European institutions. It's membership is updated weekly on developments relevant to the Sector on both a European and Global level. Meetings for its various Working Groups are held quarterly and it hosts a Freight Forwarders Forum annually in November.

For further information, please contact:



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