

FIATA

Schaffhauserstr. 104, P.O. Box, CH-8152 Glattbrugg, Switzerland
Tel. +41(0)43 211 65 00, Fax +41(0)43 211 65 65
E-Mail info@fiata.com, Internet <http://www.fiata.com>



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Media Information

FIATA and IATA Join Forces to Improve Cargo Security

The Airfreight Institute of FIATA (AFI) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) are forming a Global Air Cargo Security Industry Task Force (GACSITF) to improve air cargo supply chain security.

At the AFI meeting held during the FIATA Headquarters' Session in Zurich AFI executive member Piet Timmermans pointed out that "We are afraid that the new laws and regulation will over roll the Airfreight Industry if we do not speak with one voice". The move responds to an increasingly complex and costly security environment that jeopardizes cargo flows and too often features measures that do little to improve security.

The lack of global harmonisation of standards has made cargo security a costly mess. Regulators need to focus on security throughout the supply chain process, make better use of technology and mutually recognize each other's security standards and programmes. Together with other industry groups, FIATA and IATA will tackle these issues head on. The task force will develop and voice industry positions that protect the integrity of supply chain security while ensuring cargo gets to destination in a timely manner.

Piet Timmermans underlined that Governments and authorities had understood that Security measurements would have to be discussed with the parties involved, but they could apparently not adjust with 30 or more parties involved.

The foundation of GACSITF will be an important step forward, to cooperate or contribute of adequate Security measurements. The task force will also improve the flow of information on security issues within the air cargo-community. This matches to the main objectives of the recently founded FIATA ad hoc Working Group Security.

The group will be jointly led by IATA and FIATA with an executive co-ordination team. Membership is open to all industry stakeholder associations.

The International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) was founded in Vienna in 1926. Today it is the largest and leading non-governmental organization in the field of transportation, representing 40'000 forwarding and logistics companies employing up to 10 million people in 150 countries. FIATA has consultative status with several United Nations bodies and is recognized by many governmental and private organizations worldwide. The Federation's main objectives are to promote and protect the interests of the freight forwarding industry, to improve the quality of freight forwarding services, to assist with vocational training and to familiarize the business world in particular and the public in general with the wide range services rendered by the industry.

