

Regional Conference for Logistics Service Providers

21 June 2018

Busan, Republic of Korea

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Regional Conference for Logistics Services Providers took place in Busan, Republic of Korea on 21 June 2018. 42 representatives of professional associations and freight forwarding/logistics companies actively participated in the Conference.
2. The Conference recognized the importance of active participation of national associations as a way to promote dialogue and share knowledge on issues and developments pertaining to transport and logistics sector and supported the continuation of such platform for discussion.
3. Recognizing that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development placed increased pressure on the transport sector to be more environmentally friendly, the Conference took stock of ongoing initiatives being spearheaded by governments as well as the private sector to reduce negative externalities in the logistics industry, in particular in the provision of “last mile” delivery in urban areas. In that regard, participants heard of various projects being implemented by the Government of China and GIZ Beijing.
4. The Conference discussed the security and safety risks along transport and logistics supply chains, and acknowledged that crimes took on multiple faces that ranged from false declarations, counterfeited documents and goods, insurance fraud, and the voluntary destruction of transport assets.
5. In that regard, the Conference heard of actions taken at the national level to combat crimes through the adoption of national legislation, ratification and implementation of international conventions and treaties. In this respect, the Conference was apprised of the risk-mitigation policies implemented by the Government of Turkey.
6. The Conference recognized that, while facilitating business processes, increasing digitalization also heightened the risk of cyber-crimes resulting in substantial financial losses and negative impact on the credibility of the industry. In that regard, the Conference noted that existing international crime legislation faced challenges in keeping pace with the global outreach of criminal organizations and felt a need for a more adequate anti-crime international framework to fight trade-related crimes in the logistics chain.
7. The Conference recognized that in delivering services, logistics providers had to navigate through a maze of multiple laws applied through a broad spectrum of governmental entities.

In that regard, the Conference encouraged ESCAP to pursue efforts with its member States for the establishment of a logistics-friendly environment. The Conference agreed that setting up a specialized agency/body in charge of (i) overseeing all related matters across existing ministries and all entities, whether public or private, and (ii) offering leadership in response to national and international developments influencing the industry, could help establish such an environment, and it noted the work of ESCAP in promoting such an agency.

8. The Conference recognized that the complexity of modern supply chains and the multiplicity of actors with different interests make such an agency an essential prerequisite to developing efficient transport and logistics. Countries that have been successful in introducing far-reaching changes have been those combining regulatory reform with investment planning, inter-agency coordination and incentives for operators.

9. The Conference welcomed the progress towards deploying national and transnational digital solutions and block chain technology as a mechanism to facilitate and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of logistics services in the ESCAP region, in particular in the light of increasing cross-border trade. National experiences from the Republic of Korea were shared with Conference participants.

10. The Conference acknowledged that handling goods is labor-intensive and, therefore, the availability of skilled logistics staff is an important determinant of supply chain performance. In that regard, the Conference recognized the importance of putting in place adequate human resources development frameworks and requested ESCAP to continue allocating resources towards implementing its “Training of the Trainers (TOT)” programme.

11. Participants recognized the Conference as a good platform for sharing concerns and brainstorming over possible solutions to new challenges and expressed gratitude to ESCAP for convening the Conference. They also expressed their appreciation to FIATA for their continued loyal support to the Conference and to the Korea International Freight Forwarders Association for hosting the Conference. The Conference also requested ESCAP to continue collaborate with FIATA on the organization of such Conference in 2019.

12. The conclusions and recommendations of the Conference were adopted on 21 June 2018 in Busan, Republic of Korea.