



Trade facilitation and digital transformation of multimodal transport and trade in a time of crisis

Opening statement by Dr. Ivan Petrov

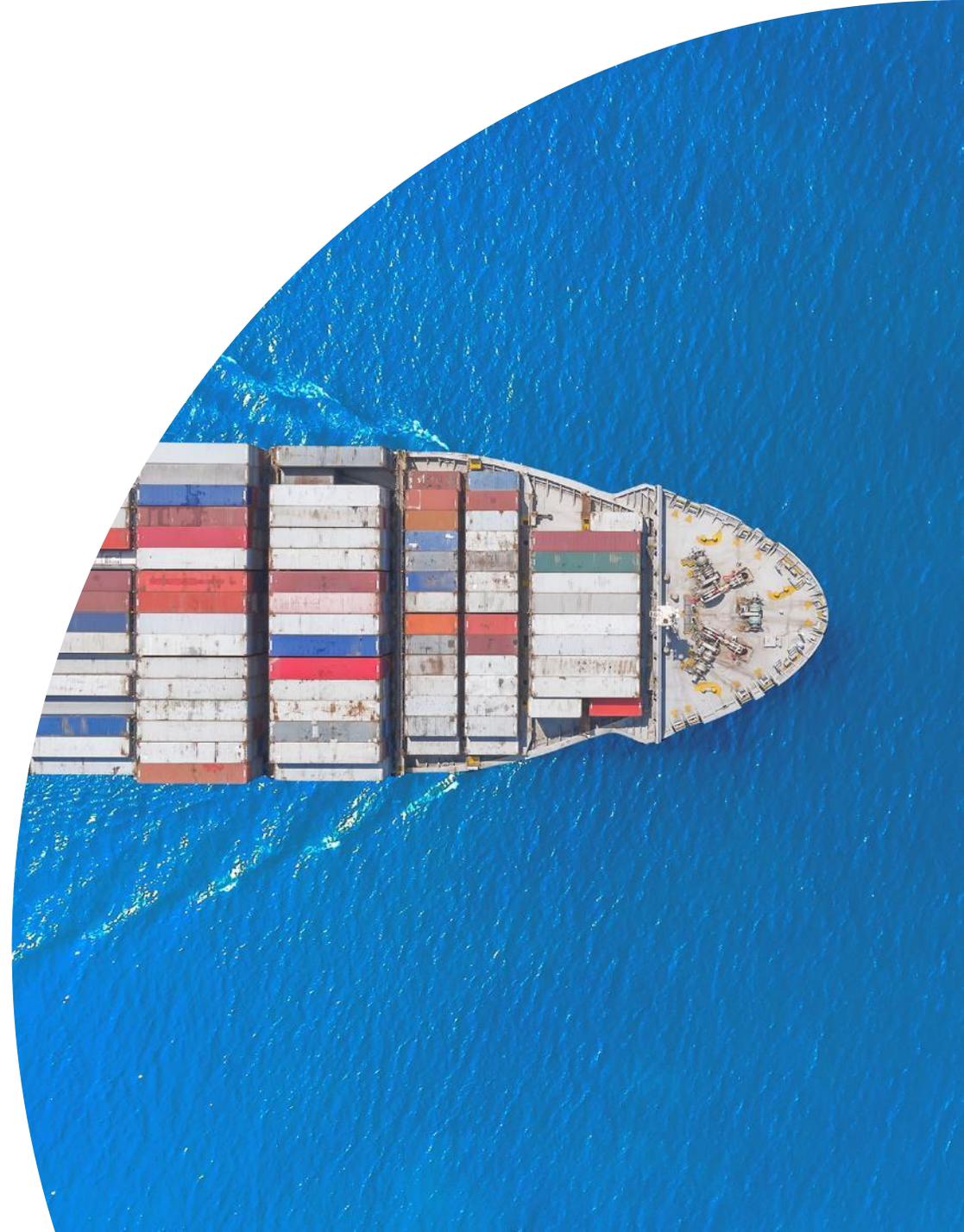
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FIATA's role in a time of crisis

- Development of crucial resources, and best practice guides for the industry
- Strengthened cooperation with international and regional organisations to empower the industry with necessary resources and support
- Establishment of crucial dialogue with stakeholders across the supply chain, including governmental regulators, to find solutions
- Advocacy and awareness-building on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and related measures to optimise trade
- Promotion of multimodal transport as a key solution in a turbulent supply chain, and crucial role of freight forwarders
- Promotion of the Paperless FIATA BL as a solution to increase resilience and process optimization



FIATA's collaboration with UNCITRAL UNECE

- Proposal by the Government of China at the 52nd session of the UNCITRAL Commission on possible development of a negotiable transport document to facilitate multimodal carriage of goods, particularly by railway in the Euro-Asian space
- UNCITRAL support of FIATA proposal to start preparatory work on new legal instrument for multimodal transport documents
- FIATA collaboration with UNCITRAL and UNECE working towards a harmonized legal framework that supports negotiable transport documents across all modes of transport (traditionally most require a sea leg)
- FIATA work to offer its expertise noting that the FIATA Multimodal Transport Bill of Lading (FBL) is the only negotiable multimodal document in existence



FIATA Digital Strategy

- The Strategy includes 6 projects with one main objective: facilitate data exchange between freight forwarders and their stakeholders through interoperability
 - FIATA Digital Identity
 - Digitalization of FIATA Standard trade documents
 - Document certification and digital signature
 - Professional network
 - Interoperability
 - Business intelligence
- A collaborative approach has been taken to implement the strategy and different key actors/organizations of the supply chain have been involved through our Working groups (UNECE, IATA, DCSA, IPCSA, GS1, software providers)



FIATA Multimodal Bill of Lading

- Only truly multimodal negotiable trade document
- Deemed in conformity with UNCTAD/ICC Rules for Multimodal Transport Documents and with UCP 600 by ICC
- Reputable and trustworthy due to conditions for use, including liability insurance requirements and document tracking
- Known document by banking institutions; FBL can be used to support a Letter of credit
- Around 1 million copies issued globally every year



Promoting interoperability through the eFBL data standard

- eFBL data standard, based on **UN/CEFACT Multimodal Transport Reference Data Model** to ensure the data exchanged can be understood in the same way by all actors of the supply chain
- Mapping exercise took place last year, involving UN/CEFACT experts and FIATA Technical and Business experts
- Officially launched together with UNECE on March 10 2022 – data standard available as open source through FIATA Git Hub repository
- FIATA expects its standard to become the main global standard for all House Bill of Ladings, noting the compatibility with other BLs



Paperless FIATA BL: bringing trust and security through digitalisation

- Open source solution launched on May 18 2022
- Solution allowing freight-forwarders to issue secured paperless FBL through their everyday tools (TMSs and other software).
- Each document is registered on an immutable ledger, protecting it against fraud and allowing all stakeholders interacting with the document to verify it anytime.
- Already 8 software providers who have implemented the solution:



Next steps

- Continue to contribute to the work undertaken by the UN on negotiable transport documents
- Collaboration with FIT Alliance (BIMCO, DCSA, ICC, SWIFT) and the ICC Digital Standard initiative to ensure interoperability with all industry stakeholders and to promote the adoption of MLTER to ensure global legal acceptance of electronic documents.
- Extend FIATA paperless document solution to FCR, FWB and FWR
- Continued work to strengthen and build the legal framework supporting multimodal and intermodal transport
- Promotion and awareness building of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement



Thank you



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