

FIATA WORLD CONGRESS 2009 Main Forum

“Emergency case; how are International Organizations acting”

The **Moderator Mr. Björn Helmke** (Germany) opened the Main Forum at 10:00 and welcomed the delegates

Mr. Björn Helmke

Editor in Chief, Deutsche Verkehrs-Zeitung, Hamburg/Germany

One of the most respected journalists in the forwarding and logistic world.

Mr. Harsha V. Singh

Deputy Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Geneva/Switzerland

Harsha Vardhana Singh is Deputy Director-General, WTO, since October 2005. His responsibilities include areas of Agriculture, Services, Trade and Environment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and Technical Barriers to Trade. Earlier, from June 1985 to June 1997, Dr. Singh worked in the GATT/WTO Secretariat in different parts of the Organization, including Economic Research, Trade Policy Review, Rules, Trade and Environment and Office of the Director-General. In the Rules Division, where he worked for about five years, he was Secretary of two Committees: Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices and Committee on Safeguards. He also served as Secretary of six dispute settlement panels on anti-dumping and subsidies / countervailing measures, and serviced the Uruguay Round negotiations. In the Director General's office, he was involved in co-ordination of a various in-house activities and those involving other multilateral organizations. Prior to joining the WTO Secretariat in October 2005, Dr. Singh was Secretary, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). In India, he has been a member of several High Level Committees, including on international trade and regulation. Dr. Singh has served as Chair of three WTO dispute settlement panels on anti-dumping issues. He has also been an Honorary Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), and visiting faculty at The Energy and Resources Institute School of Advanced Studies for their Masters Programme on Regulation. He has been a consultant with the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, ILO, UNCTAD, and the World Bank. Dr. Singh completed his Masters in Economics from Delhi in 1979 and went to the University of Oxford (U.K.) as a Rhodes Scholar from India to obtain his M.Phil. and D.Phil. in Economics. Dr. Singh welcomed all attendees and gave an overview on the World Economic Crisis and the countermeasures that WTO is orchestrating. Singh pointed out that protectionist measures are the wrong way out of the crisis. The lesson learned from the economic crisis in the 1930s is for example that higher tariffs or new trade barriers by any country will be immediately retaliated by others. The consequence is the build-up of “sand in the gears of international trade”. WTO prevents protectionism through the disciplines that apply when members take any trade restrictive measures. The WTO has also creating a monitoring systems providing information about trade-related measures taken by countries.

Singh quoted from a report of WTO, UNCTAD and OECD dealing with the forthcoming meeting of the G20 in Pittsburgh. The three organisations expressed hope that a collective decision by G20 members to bring the Doha Round to a rapid conclusion would be well-received by other WTO members and could send out a signal that protectionist measures are not the solution to this crisis.

The Deputy Director General considers the successful completion of the Doha round as a low hanging fruit that would significantly improve trade facilitation and trade in services. WTO has also focussed on facilitating trade finance by convening important commercial banks and Im-Ex-banks with multilateral development organisation. The goal is to steer against liquidity constraints restricting world trade.

The information provided by Mr. Singh can be obtained from the FIATA Secretariat on demand (maegerle@fiata.com)

Mr. Oliver Gisler

Head of Transport, ICRC Logistics Department, Geneva/Switzerland

Oliver Gisler joined the ICRC in 1989 in the transport unit. He has been working mainly in Geneva but was also for shorter and longer periods in the field (Croatia, Kenya, Caucasus, Sri Lanka). He temporarily left the organisation in October 2000 and came back in June 2002. He is in charge of the Transport unit since this date. Among various operations he faced since June 2002, he and his team were involved in the following major logistic set-up:

2002: Afghanistan

2003: Iraq

2004: Darfour, Sudan

2004: Tsunami in Sri Lanka

2005: Earthquake Pakistan

2006: Lebanon war

The ICRC is an independent, neutral organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of war and other situations of violence. It was founded in 1863.

The ICRC has a permanent mandate under international law to take impartial action for prisoners, the wounded and sick, and civilians affected by conflict.

With its HQ in Geneva, Switzerland, the ICRC is based in around 80 countries and has more than 12,000 staff. In situations of conflict, the ICRC coordinates the response by national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and their International Federation. The ICRC is at the origin of both the International Red Cross! Red Crescent Movement and of international humanitarian law, notably the Geneva Conventions.

Mr. Gisler gave some key figures of the ICRC, Logistic Division. The ICRC operates 2740 vehicles and trucks and 1300 generators, forklifts and boats. The assets are worth 140 Mio. CHF. Besides of that ICRC operates 92000m² of warehouse space. 1/3 of ICRC budget is managed by the Logistics unit. 55 percent of the logistic costs are related to transport. Gisler told that for 1 CHF purchased, there is 0,63 CHF logistic Costs to get the goods where they are needed.

The ICRC does significant worldwide air operations. In 2008 9641 hours were flown on behalf of red cross with 2120 tons of goods and 43464 passengers on board. The costs were about 24 Mio. CHF..

The Information provided by Mr. Gisler can be obtained from the FIATA Secretariat on demand (maegerle@fiata.com)

Mr. Radisav Milijanovic

Chief of Logistics, Support and Inventory Section (Global Support and Inventory Section), UNHCR, Budapest/Hungary

Name: Rade Milijanovic

Born: 01/03/1950

Nationality: Serbian

UNHCR: since 1993

Emergencies in which he worked on supply / logistics:

Ex-Yugoslavia (Belgrade, 93-94) ,

Great Lakes (Goma and Bukavu, 94-96)

Great Lakes (Air repatriation from Congo to Rwanda, 96) Burundi (Bujumbura, 97-99)

Pakistan (Sept - Dec 2001) Indonesia (Medan, 2003)

At present: Chief, Logistics Support and Inventory Section, Division of Emergency and Supply Management, UNHCR (Global Service Center in Budapest).

Mr. Milijanovic gave some key figures on UNHCR. The UN Refugee Agency has to take care for 10.5 Mio. refugees worldwide plus 14.4 Mio. internally displaced people. The budget in 2009 is 2.0 billion USD in 2009. UNHCR operates offices in 110 countries with 6600 staff worldwide. "Our main focus is to save time. In emergency cases every minute counts", says

Milijanovic. UNHCR budget for transport is 32 Mio. USD. 6 Mio. USD of that amount were used for time critical emergency cases. Another 90 Mio. USD were spent for the fleet (vehicle purchases, maintenance, fuel etc). UNHCR has always to stock a Central Emergency stockpile of basic Non-food items for 500000 beneficiaries and funds for emergency transport. In logistics UNHCR teams up with other organisations and the private sector. For example the warehouses are managed by the World food programme, UNICEF and Kühne + Nagel. In emergency cases with many organisations involved UNHCR takes the lead for emergency shelters, camp management and protection of the people.

The Information provided by Mr. Milijanovic can be obtained from the FIATA Secretariat on demand (maegerle@fiata.com)

Mr. Beat von Däniken

**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC (Ministry of Foreign Affairs),
Chief of Staff of the Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Confederation and Deputy of the
Head of the Cooperate Domain Humanitarian Aid**

Born: 7 September 1965 - married

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

since 2008: SDC Humanitarian Aid (headquarters)

Position: - Chief of Staff of the Humanitarian Aid - Responsible for Rapid Response activities

March 2007-Sept. 2008: SDC Humanitarian Aid (headquarters)

Position: - Head of Division Europe and CIS countries - Responsible for the humanitarian programs and projects in the Europe and CIS countries

March 2004 – Feb. 2007: SDC Humanitarian Aid (Peru)

Position: - Assistant Coordinator for humanitarian aid - Responsible for the humanitarian programs and projects in the Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador

Sept. 2000 - Feb. 2004 SDC Humanitarian Aid (headquarters)

Position:- Program Officer for Europe and CIS countries

May 1997 - August 2000

Swiss Education and Development Foundation

Position: - Scientific expert, - Education policies, training and NGO coordination

1996-1998

University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

Position: - PhD Master Student for Climate Change

1994 - 1996

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Positions: - Head of ICRC sub delegation (Herat- Afghanistan) 1995-1996, - ICRC Delegate (Bujumbura-Burundi) 1994 - 1995

He informed the delegates about the Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Confederation. Von Däniken pointed out the principles of the swiss humanitarian aid. Switzerland assists victims regardless of race, sex, language, religion, political opinion or social class. Switzerland provides humanitarian aid on a neutral and impartial basis, independent and without political conditions. The strategic fields of activities are emergency relief but also reconstruction, advocacy and prevention preparedness. Switzerland works directly on emergency programmes and also supports the big multinational organisations. 600 Experts from Switzerland are available for the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit. Switzerland can send Rapid

Response Teams (RRT) to disaster areas. The intervention time of the RRT is between 6 and 24 hours only.

The Information provided by Mr. Von Däniken can be obtained from the FIATA Secretariat on demand (maegerle@fiata.com)

During the q+a session Fiata-Delegates came up with the suggestion to start a round table with FIATA and the Humanitarian Aid organisations to look for ways how freight forwarders can support rescue operations through their professional knowledge. This was accepted by all parties concerned.