



A Specialized symposium on (Incoterms® 2010)

October 12th, 2010 / Damascus – Syria



 Under the patronage of the Syrian Minister of Economy and Trade Lamia Assi, the International Chamber of Commerce in Syria (ICC-Syria) held a specialized symposium on (Incoterms® 2010), the new official rules for the interpretation of terms and rules of international trade, at the Carlton Hotel in Damascus, on 12 October 2010. Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, President of ICC-Syria, explained that Incoterms are an international standard for commercial contracts reporting and for organizing the transport and delivery of goods, and therefore, are the basic pillar in the international trade processes. Dr. Attar pointed out

that understanding the terms and rules of international trade significantly contributes to reducing risk of misunderstanding between commercial parties and thereby reducing conflicts rates. Dr. Attar pointed out that (Incoterms® 2010), the amended version of (Incoterms® 2000), will enter into effect early next year taking into account the great technological development in business processes. For his part, Deputy Minister of Economy and Trade Ghassan Al-Eid said that the ministry is applying the social market economy approach gradually in the interest of the national economy. He pointed out that

the ministry has been amending many laws relating to the trade work and the business environment in general, in order to keep pace with the development in international trade.

Eid referred to the ministry's contribution on Syria's investment environment development which is witnessing an increasing activity especially after opening private banks and insurance companies in addition to the projects of developing transport networks of roads, railways, and ports which is accompanied by continuous development in the legislative and legal side. For his part, David Lowe, an international expert and Chair of the Commercial Law and Commercial Practice at the ICC UK, said that (Incoterms® 2010) makes use of the great technology development in business processes and its effect has extended all goods transfer processes of all means in order to ensure a smooth transition.



ICC Executive Board meets in Brussels

November 18th and 19th, 2010 / Brussels



The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Executive Board held a session in Brussels on November 18th and 19th, 2010 in the presence of Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, ICC Executive Board member. The meeting was marked by the participation of Herman Van Pompu, President of the European Council and

Frederik Erixon, Director of the European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE), Brussels. The executive board approved the 2011 budget. John Beechey, Chairman of the International Court of Arbitration presented an update on the activities of the Dispute Resolution Services (DRS), followed by an update on the

World Chamber Federation (WCF) activities by Peter Mihók, Deputy Chairman of WCF.

The board addressed the role of ICC vis-à-vis the G20 meeting in Seoul on November 11th, 2010. They also approved the ICC Programme of Action 2011 and other policy documents including ICC Model International Franchise Agreement, Policy Roadmap on Finance and Climate Change and ICC Guidelines on Agents, Intermediaries and Other Third Parties.

Martin Wassell, Senior Advisor to ICC, briefed on ICC preparations for UN Climate Change Conference in - Cancun, Mexico on November 29 to December 10, 2010.

Fredrik Erixon, introduced the discussion on currency wars, protectionism, and global economic imbalances



Palermo Chamber of Commerce visits Syria

November 11th - 15th, 2010 / Damascus - Syria



A delegation from Palermo Chamber of Commerce visited Syria between November 11th-15th, 2010, where the International Chamber of Commerce in Syria (ICC Syria) organized the visit in cooperation with Damascus and Aleppo Chambers of Commerce.

The delegation included a group of Italian businessmen and businesswomen from the sectors of tourism, energy, agro-food industries, furniture and medical equipment and devices.

The parties held meetings and round tables at the Damascus Chamber of Commerce where they discussed areas of trade and investment cooperation, opportunities available in the Syrian and Italian markets, and ways to strengthen the balance of trade. The parties also discussed the diversification exchanged of goods, efforts made to overcome obstacles facing joint work, and the appropriate mechanisms of building partnerships between businessmen in both countries. Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, President of ICC-Syria, and member of

the Arab - Italian Chamber of Commerce, said that the «old» relations with Palermo comes from «its geographical location close to Syria» pointing to «many areas and sectors which have not yet been discovered on the two sides and should be worked on in order to get the benefit from them.»

Dr. Attar added that Italy is working on training Syrians in several areas such as tourism and monuments restoration. He also pointed to the possibility of training other Syrians in Italy in other areas. Attar also pointed to the possibility of Palermo Chamber of Commerce - and Italy in general - to contribute to assist Syrian companies - small and medium-sized enterprises in particular - and to provide them with the Italian experience, knowing that 90 percent of Italian companies are small and medium-sized. Attar finally pointed to «Palermo Chamber of Commerce desire to be a focal point for cooperation Syrian - Italian.»

Mohammad Ghassan Al Qallaa, President of the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce, considered Italy - until 2008 - «As the main and

first European partner of Syria not only in import and export, but in different areas as well.»

Qallaa stressed the fact that Syria is interested in agricultural products manufacturing calling the Italian businessmen to participate and invest in these products due to Italy's vast experience in this field.



Qallaa also called for a Syrian - Italian cooperation including Syrian producers and Italian designers and importers in clothes and textile, and then to deepen cooperation to include the tourism sector especially medical tourism. Italy is one of Syria's primary European trade partners, with a trade exchange volume of SYP 94,310 billions, SYP 55,146 billions of which as Syrian exports, whereas the imports amounted to SYP 39,164 billions.

Competition and the social market economy workshop

October 26th, 2010 / Damascus – Syria



At the presence of Dr. Abdul Rahman Attar, President of ICC-Syria, the General commission for competition and antimonopoly at the Council of Ministers and in cooperation with the German Agency for Development (GTZ) held a workshop entitled «Competition and its Role in the Social Market Economy,» at Cham Palace in Damascus, on October, 26, 2010.



The workshop was focused on the commission and its law governing competition and antimonopoly prevention, as well as the importance of competition law in the social market economy.

Over the five-day workshop, the participants explored some European competition cases. They also highlighted the most important local, Arab, and international competition issues such as the strategies, structure, cases addressing, and analysis. The workshop also tackled the Syrian law of competition and ways to contribute to increase juristic and knowledge awareness.



Anwar Ali, the General Authority for competition and prevent monopoly, delivered a presentation on the basic chapters in the competition law and its role in the social market economy. Ali said that the purpose of this law is to allow all economic actors in Syria to operate freely and provide them with opportunities of investment and production in all areas, while acting in accordance with transparency and neutrality standards and away from favouritism and pressures of any kind.

«During this transitional phase of the Syrian economy, there are some exceptions related to sovereignty,» Ali said. «There is a necessity for government intervention in these exceptional cases in order to be able to meet the society's interests as a whole, and to avoid any damage that may happen during the economic openness process which we witness its early stages or under any emergency situations.»

A training in MED Digital

October 5th- 6th, 2010 / Tallinn, Estonia



Within the second operation of the MED Digital Project - (Med Digital to develop a new digital marketing service), the International Chamber of Commerce - Syria in collaboration with Estonia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, held a training course to prepare consultants on Med Digital in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia on October 5th- 6th, 2010.

The course provided participants with information on the new services of digital marketing services and the mechanism designed to support SMEs and encourage the utilization of e-commerce. The course aimed at supporting and promoting the use of electronic solutions and web as an essential and effective promotion and marketing instruments of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) products and services in Mediterranean countries.

The course came on the recommendations of the initial report of operation 1 of MED Digital Project, which include the rehabilitation experts and consultants in digital marketing and business support in order to qualify them to provide consulting services for small and medium-sized companies in the Mediterranean countries.

Experts and consultants from ICC Syria, SEBC, The Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut and Mount Lebanon (CCIAB) in addition to others bodies have participated in the course. The course reviewed the initial report results of operation 1 of MED Digital Project which comprised situation diagnosis in MED countries (Syria, Lebanon and Morocco), the Internet use and development and government support for digital marketing opportunities in these countries.



The course addressed digital marketing details, the concept of search engines and e-mail marketing. The course was also an opportunity for participants to acquire more skills on how to find the form and structure in their organizations to support the use of digital marketing. The course was an incubator for participants from the Mediterranean and European countries for experiences and knowledge exchange in various areas of e-solutions.

The MED Digital Project, funded partially by the European Union (EU), is being led by ICC Syria and in cooperation with: SEBC, CCIAB, Estonia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, COPCA (Barcelona) and CGEM - Confédération Générale des Entreprises.



ICC central role at the Seoul G20

November 10th-11th, 2010 / Seoul – South Korea



report addressing much of the G20's policy agenda and putting forward no fewer than 90 recommendations for actions G20 governments can take to stimulate economic recovery, drive sustainable economic growth, and create jobs. ICC emphasized on business priorities at the presidential level. It also stressed the importance of leading dialogue with G20 heads of



Due to the high-profile engagement of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) leaders, The Seoul G20 Business Summit confirmed that Korea's innovative Business Summit delivered an effective platform for injecting business views into the G20 process.. This came in the final Declaration of Seoul G20 Business Summit held in South Korea on November 10th-11th, 2010, The Seoul G20 Business Summit brought 13 G20 heads of government together with some 120 corporate chairmen and CEOs for up-close discussions on the most pressing challenges to the global



economy including revitalizing trade and foreign direct investment, enhancing financial stability and supporting economic activity. Under the leadership of 12 CEOs, working groups analyzed critical issues facing the global economy. They produced a

government and drove production of policy contributions, particularly in the areas of finance, trade and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Amplifying business messages to world media, ICC established itself ICC as an effective voice for business to the G20 Summit.

ICC Chairman Rajat Gupta meets with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

November 10th-11th, 2010 / Seoul – South Korea



During a private meeting with the South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, ICC Chairman Rajat Gupta and Young-tae Kim ICC Korea Chairman prioritized a number of global business views and pledged continued engagement in the G20 process. The meeting came on the sidelines of the Seoul G20 Business Summit held in South

Korea on November 10th-11th, 2010. Gupta urged the G20 leaders to resist protectionism and economic nationalism, restore trade finance to more normal levels and strengthen multilateral cooperation to improve the health of the global economy. Lee said he intended to encourage other world leaders at the G20 Summit to bring the Doha Round of trade negotiations to a swift conclusion.



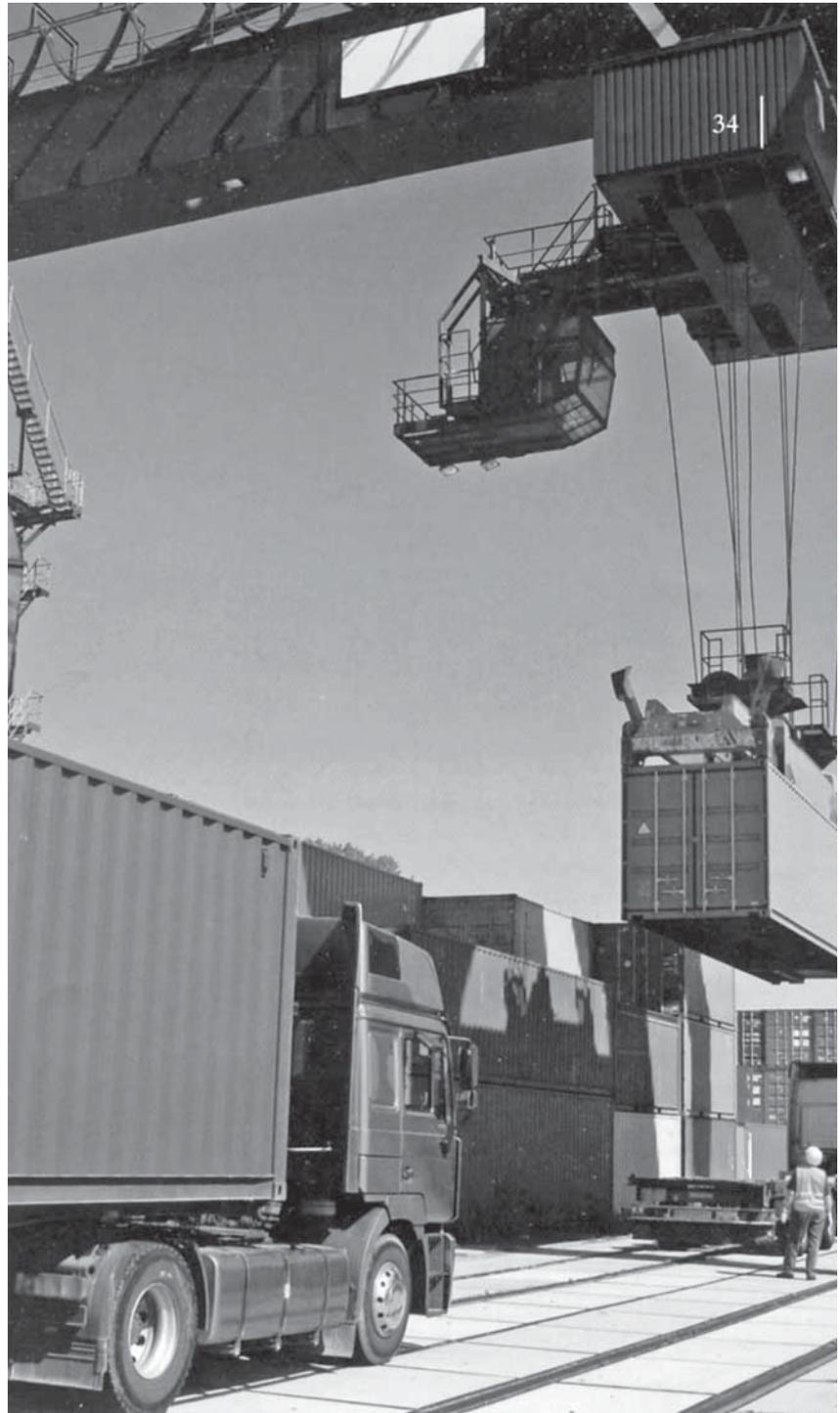
Residential Traffic Administration Program (RTAP) meeting

November 3rd, 2010 / Damascus - Syria



At an invitation of the Ministry of Transport in Syria, the International Chamber of Commerce in Syria (ICC-Syria) participated in a meeting called by the Delegation of the European Union to Syria to discuss traffic regional action plan of the RTAP emanating from the European Transport Project on November 3, 2010.

RTAP plan envisages the strengthening the regional roads and railways and supports border crossing points projects aiming at integrating European and Mediterranean transport systems through the future vision of the Euro-Mediterranean transport network. RTAP also take into account - at the desire of the Delegation of the European Union to Syria- whether it is possible to create a unified monitoring centre through the border between Syria and Lebanon, Syria and Jordan as well as with Turkey and Iraqi. Mr. Rami Sama>an the Delegation of the European Union to Syria expert, wished to obtain realistic statistics in order to allow the commission to provide material support to Syria to establish such centres. The agreement aims to facilitate transport, trade and people's movement and to harmonize between risk management



systems by all provision. It also aims to provide all equipment needed such as optical scanners and electronic gates, and GPS tracking systems.

ICC representiveness was embodied by Gorge Hilal, Director General of TIR in Syria and Shawki Faitrouni, Manager of TIR department Syria.

A meeting with Yemeni Minister of Transport

October 21st, 2010 / Damascus – Syria



At the invitation of the Syrian Ministry of Transportation, the International Chamber of Commerce in Syria (ICC-Syria) participated in meetings held in Damascus between delegations of the Syrian

and Yemeni ministries of transportation on October 21st, 2010. Syrian Minister of Transport Yarob Suliman Badr headed the Syrian delegation while the Yemeni delegation was led by Khalid Ibrahim, Minister of

Transport in Yemen. The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation and its trade, economic and industrial prospects. They also stressed the need to strengthen relations between the two countries to reach a better future

A seminar on the benefits of the Temporary Admission of Goods (A.T.A. Convention)

October 25th, 2010 - Beirut – Lebanon



At the invitation of Peter Bishop, the Chairman of the ICC WCF World ATA Carnet Council (WATAC), the International Chamber of Commerce-Syria (ICC-Syria) participated at a seminar hosted by The Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Beirut and Mount Lebanon on October 25th, 2010. The seminar concentrated on promotion accession the ATA /Admission Temporaire/ Temporary

Admission of goods. The seminar reviewed the advantages of the ATA where it is of a great importance, as businessmen, companies and the owners of the opposition, especially as it facilitates the transfer of goods between countries, thus helping in the development and facilitation of

holder to temporarily import goods (up to one year) without payment of normally applicable duties and taxes, including value-added taxes. The ATA carnet usage eliminates the need to purchase temporary import bonds. So long as the goods are re-exported within the allotted time frame, no duties or taxes are due. However, non re-export goods and



World Chambers Federation

trade between nations. ICC representativeness was embodied by Shawki Faitrouni, Manager of TIR Department in Syria and Hussein Khaddour, legal consultant of the chamber. It is worth mentioning that the ATA carnet is an international convention that allows the

commodities listed at the ATA carnet must pay the applicable fees with the violation. As the result, the guarantor party of the ATA carnet is forced to pay the amount of \$ 100,000 only a hundred thousand U.S. dollars to the Customs that the goods have been entered and released in.

