



FUTURE OF THE FREIGHT FORWARDER

May 3th 2012

On Thursday May 3th, a successful interactive seminary concerning the future of the freight forwarder took place in the "Gerard Mercator Auditorium" of ING in Antwerp. The event was a combined initiative of CEB and BITO.

Mr Jean-Claude Delen, President of CEB and Immediate Past President of FIATA, welcomed the attendees. Due to the presence of a large audience, he assumed that there is still a lot of interest for the profession and sector of freight forwarders. The freight forwarder can be defined as the architect of transport, organizer of transport or logistic adviser. Those statements were strengthened during the seminary.

All aspects by which a freight forwarder gets involved were discussed: the latest ICT applications, the influence of the freight forwarder inside the information flow within a world of cloud computing, the new evolving role of the customs, the impact of the changes in the international trade for the freight forwarder, the role of the customs freight forwarder within the changes of the European custom projects, what about the role of a freight forwarder in the matter of sustainability and the resilience of the supply chain, ...?

The role of freight forwarder remains complex and varied. The industry has changed over the years. Major developments have occurred such as the rising of the container, globalization, security requirements, changes in the IT landscape, etc.

Also the coming years, the freight forwarder will be challenged with important changes. It is important that we are informed about the future challenges which are not a threat but an opportunity.





The Belgian freight forwarders companies have each obtained a position in the market on their own way strengthened by their knowledge. However the world is still evolving and freight forwarders are every day confronted with new challenges. Due to all those changes, freight forwarders are obliged to think about the role they need to fulfill and to seize the opportunities in time.

Marc Huybrechts, President of VEA and CLECAT concluded that a freight forwarder isn't a dying specie but a crucial part of the supply chain and is constantly adapting to the changes within all the different areas.

**There is a big and fascinating future for the freight forwarder
in the constantly evolving world!**

For more information or if you want to receive the presentations, please contact the CEB [secretariat](#).

The CEB secretariat

