



Caribbean and Latin American Express Delivery Conference  
Conferencia de Compañías Express de Latinoamérica y el Caribe

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2006

## CLADEC Membership Meeting

Fifty participants from 18 countries took part in the CLADEC Trade Facilitation Workshop and Membership Meeting held at the Sofitel Miami November 30-December 2, 2005. CLADEC President Rafael Coutollenc congratulated the member associations for their very productive efforts during 2005 and encouraged even greater results for 2006. CLADEC Director Stephen Flowers greeted the participants of the Trade Facilitation workshop and urged that CLADEC continue to work for customs modernization and general trade facilitation in 2006.

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## Andean FTA

Peru has been the first to sign the Andean FTA with the US. Ecuador's changes of government have made the FTA process very unstable and ASEME President Ivan Donoso is not optimistic about the outcome. US-Colombia discussions are continuing. The Customs and Services Chapters of the Andean FTA have been closed, with some gains and one loss for EDS services in Colombia. XIV Round in DC January 23-27.

## DR-CAFTA FTA

There is some concern about the slow pace of the implementation of changes required by the CAFTA in the laws of various countries to achieve compliance with the treaty requirements. CLADEC will increase its efforts, together with AACCLA and Caribbean Central American Action (C-CAA) to push for action.

## Chile

Gaston Medina, Executive Director of ACC Chile reports the following excellent news: The Undersecretary of Hacienda officially informed us that they have decided to increase the limit for simplified customs clearance. Independent consultants recommended making changes in the regulations that govern Express Delivery companies regarding simplified customs clearance, in a gradual manner.

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## Hot Spots

- **Dominican Republic:** Despite advances on other matters, Miguel Cocco, Director General of the Dominican DGA, imposed a 3% levy on EDS company invoicing for imports for two months beginning in December 2005. At the end of that period, Cocco will review the results and decide whether to continue the levy based on invoicing or on shipments, packages, or kilos as presented by ASODEC's President Griselda Hernández.
- **Colombia:** Colombia's FTA negotiators secured a change in the Services Chapter of the US-Andean FTA which recognizes Colombia's right to charge EDS companies a "canon" to support a universal postal service.

## Bright Spots

- **Argentina:** Congratulations to CAPSIA for having been accepted as a member of the Consejo Consultivo after many years of consistent effort. In addition CAPSIA is scheduled to present new normativa for customs to the government in early March. CAPSIA is now in discussions with Despachantes to formulate a joint position on the new normativa.
- **Brazil:** ABRAEC met with Brazil Customs Director on December 16 and agreed that ABRAEC will search for a new customs clearance information system. ABRAEC is evaluating ASYCUDA World among other systems. Claudia Souza (CLADEC Customs Committee) commented that according to Brazil Customs all existing customs provisions that represent limitations for EDS now under review by Customs. The present limitations are said by Customs to be the result of not having an information system in place. Congratulations and good luck ABRAEC.
- **Guatemala:** CLADEC Guatemala reports that Guatemala Customs has now implemented the Risk Management program and inspections which were up to 100% are now under 10% and improving. Another bit of excellent news is that Karla Mata has been re-elected as President of CLADEC Guatemala so we may expect even more good news from Guatemala in 2006.

## CLADEC membership Meeting (Cont.)

Special guests included: **Dr. Eduardo Gamarra**, FIU, **John Murphy**, Executive Vice President, AACCLA, **Mark Smith**, Brazil Business Council, AACCLA, **Anton E. Edmonds**, Executive Director Caribbean-Central American Action, **Merton Moore**, Permanent Secretary Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council, **Dorcas Scantlebury**, Deputy Postmaster General Barbados, **Ambassador Roberto Echandi**, Costa Rica, **Sue Presti**, Executive Director XLA, **John Price**, President, Infoamericas and **Eric Williams**, Director of Americas Relief. (See Library at [www.cladec.org](http://www.cladec.org) for complete report including PowerPoint presentations.)

## Chile (Cont.)

During the first stage, the limit for imports will increase to US\$1,000 and for exports to US\$1,500. Then the limits will gradually continue to increase up to US\$3,000 by 2008, subject to evaluation of the conditions of duty collection and self-regulation.

## The EDS after US-Chile FTA

Express shipments from Chile to other countries grew by 12.1% during 2005. In addition, tons imported increased by 9.92%.

### Express Cargo Tons

Year	Imports	Exports	Total
2002	3,560	1,390	4,950
2003	3,690	1,477	5,167
2004	3,847	1,527	5,374
2005	4,229	1,712	5,907

Sources: Manifest System, Metropolitan Customs – ACCAG (Asociación de Couriers de Chile A.G.)

In 2005, express cargo accounted for 2.44% of the total air cargo transported to and from Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport.

### Express Clearance of Merchandise 2002 – 2004 (Amounts in US\$)

Year	CIF Value	Duty	VAT	Amount Collected
2002	26,626,711	1,278,082	5,022,863	6,300,945
2003	24,657,664	722,644	4,627,670	5,350,314
2004	28,321,284	586,251	5,381,044	5,967,295

Our industry transports 1.36% of the total imports and 8.4% of the imports through Metropolitan Customs, and it only clears 0.13% of the total imports and 0.78% of the imports through Metropolitan Customs.

(See Library at [www.cladec.org](http://www.cladec.org) for more information.)

## The World Economic Forum

Growth Competitiveness Index rankings 2005/2004.

Country	GCI 2005 Rank	GCI 2005 Score	GCI 2004 Rank	Changes 2004-2005
Finland	1	5.94	1	0
Taiwan	5	5.58	4	-1
Singapore	6	5.48	7	1
Japan	12	5.18	9	-3
Korea, Rep.	17	5.07	29	12
Chile	23	4.91	22	-1
Hong Kong SAR	28	4.83	21	-7
Czech Republic	38	4.42	40	2
Hungary	39	4.38	39	0
Tunisia	40	4.32	42	2
Slovak Republic	41	4.31	43	2
South Africa	42	4.31	41	-1
Botswana	48	4.21	45	-3
China	49	4.07	46	-3
Uruguay	54	3.93	54	0
Mexico	55	3.92	48	-7
El Salvador	56	3.86	53	-3
Colombia	57	3.84	64	7

Complete list at Links in [www.cladec.org](http://www.cladec.org)

## Global Express Association

- **The GEA** has printed 2500 copies of the OEF Global Express Impact Study, and distributed all but one box of 60 copies. CLADEC has recently requested 200 more copies from GEA (150 of them for Argentina). **IF ANYONE ELSE WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE GLOBAL EXPRESS IMPACT STUDY** please contact CLADEC now and let us know how many copies you need we can satisfy all needs with the next printing order.

### • Other GEA News

#### **Action Items from the EDS General Assembly –**

**Action Item:** Create an inventory of recent EDS assistance to customs administrations to enlist support for EDS priorities in the trade facilitation negotiations.  
**Action taken:** Completed draft of a brief questionnaire to be used to survey GEA member activities in the nature of technical support for customs administrations. The questionnaire will be reviewed and revised/approved at a January 17 meeting of the GEA Customs Committee.

**CLADEC members:** Please be aware that the GEA will need feedback from our associations and it is in our best interest to provide that information. CLADEC will keep you informed.