

## IIFA's FIATA Diploma course successfully re-validated at the 2017 FIATA HQ Session



*Pictured L-R: Thomas Sim, Chairman of FIATA's ABVT, and Seamus Kavanagh, IIFA*

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Seamus Kavanagh presented Ireland's version of the FIATA Diploma course to FIATA's Advisory Body Vocational Training (ABVT). FIATA's ABVT are responsible for investigating all global FIATA Diploma programmes to ensure that the Minimum Standards (guidance on topics to be covered for each Module) are appropriately implemented and to ensure that suitable training methodology is employed. With Representatives from across FIATA's global membership of Freight Forwarding professionals, this group is best positioned to review the course material and ensure that the content is relevant and up to date with the latest industry regulations and market place information.

Ireland's FIATA Diploma programme is somewhat unique among the 54 participating FIATA National Association's that offer this course, given its online approach. A full demonstration of IIFA's methods was presented to the assembled ABVT and following a thorough questions and answers session, IIFA was presented with a Re-Validation certificate. Of particular note from this re-validation was FIATA's praise for Ireland's results with doubling of webinar output across the 2015 – 2016 year group and its international achievement with its course offerings. As part of the 2015 – 2016 class group, Ireland worked with a Participant based in the USA who did not have a local option for this programme. The appeal of the FIATA Diploma to this participant was the international recognition the Diploma programme could provide and IIFA worked with FIATA's ABVT and that individual Participant in order to be the first FIATA National Association to deliver training internationally.

Regarding Ireland's place on the global FIATA Diploma scale, between 1996 – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017, there have been 12,944 FIATA Diplomas issued worldwide. 523 of these have been to Ireland. Within Europe, the top Country for FIATA Diploma is France with 1396 however Ireland is within the top 5 and continues to grow.

This was the second re-validation for Ireland, with the course having been validated in 2008 and re-validated in 2013. Previous to this, Ireland did have a FIATA Diploma programme available through FAS between 1996 – 2010. At the time of writing, Ireland through FAS issued 361 FIATA Diploma Certificates while IIFA, since September 2008, has issued 162 directly. The present class group has 35 Participants and the 2017 – 2018 group, the tenth class group, will commence in September of this year.

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#### About Irish International Freight Association

Irish International Freight Association (IIFA) is the National Representative Body for the Irish Freight Forwarding community. Run by a Council of elected representatives from its membership body, the Association's overall aim is to ensure that the concerns of Members and their Clients are heard and acted upon. With 120 Members nationwide, IIFA members facilitate 90% of Ireland's international trade. IIFA as a recognised industry stake-holder maintains membership of a number of knowledgeable and influential Associations both at National and International level.

IIFA is Ireland's National Association Member of FIATA, the International Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations, based in Zurich, Switzerland and is also a member of CLECAT, the European Association for Forwarding, Transport, Logistics and Customs Services, based in Brussels, Belgium. Locally, Representatives from the IIFA Council sit upon Revenue's Customs Consultative Committee and other relevant stakeholder groups, such as DTTAS' recently formed BREXIT group.

IIFA supports the continuous improvement of the Irish Freight Industry by offering training with an Irish version of the internationally recognized FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding, a 10 module distance learning course that covers the cornerstones of the Freight, Logistics and Transport industry. Initial modules cover transport by Land, Air and Sea while later modules detail important background considerations such as Customs Clearance, Dangerous Goods and Insurance. In September 2017, IIFA will launch a stand-alone Customs Clearance and practical SAD completion course.

Between 3rd – 8 th October 2016, IIFA hosted the 2016 FIATA World Congress in Dublin. The FIATA World Congress is the largest annual gathering of the Freight, Logistics and Transport industry from around the World. Over 700 attended and enjoyed a Congress program that was widely praised by all in attendance

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