

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **FIATA Diploma gets Funding from International Trade Skillnet**

*6<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.* At the end of this month, Ireland's first FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding course will take place in Dublin. Administered by the Irish International Freight Association (IIFA) and subsidised by Skillnets, this will be the first time a course like this will be offered to those in full-time employment within the freight forwarding and supply chain management sectors in Ireland.

“The IIFA has pledged, through its educational and representative capacity, to raise the level of professionalism of the freight forwarding sector in Ireland to the highest standard possible and this course accomplishes just that,” says Mr. Colm Walsh, CEO of the IIFA. “We are delighted to be working with Skillnets on this course. With their help, we are now able to offer this course at a subsidised price to those who fill the requirements. Their support proves how vital on-going training is regarded in all industries of business today.”

Skillnets is an enterprise-led support body whose mission is to enhance the skills of people in employment in Irish industry to support competitiveness and employability. Skillnets is funded from the National Training Fund and its stakeholders include leading employer and employee representative bodies - IBEC, Chambers Ireland, CIF, SFA, ICTU (Skillnets web site, 2008).

For more information on this course, including modules covered and application details, please log on to [www.iifa.ie](http://www.iifa.ie)

International Trade Skillnet is funded by member companies and the Training networks Programme, an initiative of Skillnets Ltd. Funded from the National training Fund through the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

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About the IIFA

The IIFA is the sole representative body and official voice of the freight forwarding sector in Ireland. Established in 1962, it currently has 100 members who collectively employ more than 3,000 people and handle more than 90% of Ireland's €148 billion international merchandise trade.

Through its membership of the Customs Consultative Committee (CCC) and Trade Facilitation Ireland (TFI) the association participates in discussions on local issues affecting international trade. Representation at international level is conducted through IIFA's membership of FIATA.

The association's overall aim is to ensure that the concerns of members and their clients are heard and acted upon, thus ensuring that the flow of physical trade between Ireland

and the rest of the world is as efficient and cost-effective as possible.

For more information on the IIFA, please visit our web site at [www.iifa.ie](http://www.iifa.ie)

### ***About Skillnet***

Skillnets is an enterprise-led support body dedicated to the promotion and facilitation of learning as a key element in sustaining Ireland's national competitiveness.

Skillnets supports networks of enterprises to engage in training under the Learning Networks Programme. These Learning Networks, now referred to as 'Skillnets', are led and managed by the enterprises themselves and have created and delivered training programmes across a broad range of industry and service sectors nationwide.

Since 1999, Skillnets has facilitated over 10,000 Irish enterprises, in over 150 networks to improve the range, scope and quality of training and allowed over 50,000 employees to improve and meet their skills needs.

For more information please visit [www.skillnets.ie](http://www.skillnets.ie)

### ***About FIATA***

*FIATA, in French 'Federation Internationale des Associations de Transtaires et Assimiles', in English 'International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations' was founded in Vienna/Austria on May 31, 1926.*

*FIATA, a non-governmental organisation, represents today an industry covering approximately 40,000 forwarding and logistics firms, also known as the "Architects of Transport", employing around 8 - 10 million people in 150 countries.*

*FIATA has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (inter alia ECE, ESCAP, ESCWA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).*

*It is recognised as representing the freight forwarding industry by many other governmental organisations, governmental authorities, private international organisations in the field of transport such as the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Union of Railways (UIC), the International Road Transport Union (IRU), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), etc.*

*In summary FIATA is the largest non-governmental organisation in the field of transportation. Its influence is worldwide.*

*For more information please visit [www.fiata.com](http://www.fiata.com)*

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