

12 August



The CNSC and Cameroon Customs (DGD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the Douala Maritime Museum aimed at setting up a framework for collaboration, consultation and data exchange to make Cameroon's foreign trade more competitive.

13 August



Kids present artworks produced during the 12th edition of the «*Fun and Educational Holidays*» programme at the Douala Maritime Museum.

26 September



The International Maritime Organization on an audit mission to Cameroon visited the Douala Maritime Museum to learn about Cameroon's maritime and cultural history.

27-30 September



The CNSC featured on the panel of the 2022 Public Forum of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland under the theme «*Towards a sustainable and inclusive recovery: ambition to action*».

30 September



Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda, CNSC General Manager, launched the construction of its fourth trucker accommodation centre in Garoua-Boulai, East Region.

10-13 October



Working visit by CWEIC Chairman, Lord Jonathan Peter Marland, to the CNSC and organisation of a working session with business persons interested in partnering with the Commonwealth network at the Douala Maritime Museum.

14 October



Commissioning of the Ngoulentang CNSC trucker accommodation facility in the Centre region.

21-22 October



The business community of Abang-Minko'o and Kye-Ossi was sensitized by the CNSC through seminars on «*Trade facilitation at the Abang-Minko'o and Kye-Ossi border posts*».

2-11 November



A delegation from the CNSC attended the IMO Maritime Safety Committee in London, England.

3 November



The CNSC organised a capacity-building workshop on «*How to Package and Preserve Goods before Export*» with the aim to better school participants on applicable packaging standards for different goods.

23 November



The CNSC organised a B2B seminar in Douala on Procedures to Import/Export goods by Air, the purpose being to update participants on the procedures in force at Cameroon's airports.

3-11 December



The CNSC was present at the Economic Actors' and Local Development Fair (SAEDEL) in Kribi to provide tailored assistance to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

13-15 December



The CNSC participated at the «*Cameroon Investment Week*», a business forum organised by Cameroon's Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

16 December



The CNSC Sports and Cultural Association and CNCC Ladies organised visits to offer Christmas gifts to disadvantaged children living in orphanages.

28-29 December



The Ad Hoc Sub-Committee in charge of the implementation of the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative organised a two-day training seminar at the Douala Maritime Museum on the theme «*Opportunities for Cameroonian Businesses with the Implementation of the AfCFTA*» presided over by Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda, chairman of the said committee.

24 and 31 December



Kids celebrated year-end festivities at the Douala Maritime Museum and received Christmas gifts from CNSC's General Manager, Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda.



Quality Management System certified under ISO 9001 : 2015 by Bureau Veritas for issuance of the Electronic Cargo Tracking Note for maritime imports and exports.

RETRO

2022 IN THE CNSC

Dear shippers,

The year 2022 is well and truly over at the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC). Despite the difficulties encountered, the CNSC still obtained reassuring results in several aspects, heralding a promising future and new achievements in 2023.

Over the year 2022, the CNSC managed to keep to its promises in spite of the rather challenging economic and financial situation. The materialisation of these promises led to the construction and commissioning of the Ngoulentang CNSC trucker facility (**Centre Region**), the launch of construction works for the CNSC trucker accommodation centre in Garoua-Boulai (**East Region**) and construction works for the Kousseri CNSC logistics base in the Far North region are almost complete.

The Cameroon National Shippers' Council, *your partner*, successfully organised all the different training sessions scheduled for 2022. Shippers received training on various themes thanks to the CNSC. Memoranda of Understanding were signed with the Directorate of Customs and Afriexbank. All of these activities aimed at accompanying you in your daily activities and making you adept professionals, while contributing to the competitiveness of Cameroon's ports.

In 2023, the Cameroon National Shippers' Council intends to put special emphasis on the African Continental Free Trade Area (**AfCFTA**). As chair of the Ad hoc Committee in Charge of the Implementation of the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative, the CNSC has vouched to help Cameroonian businesses take full advantage of this vast pan-African market. For the year 2023, the CNSC Management would like to assure you it has many projects in store for you and their success very much depends on your collaboration.

As 2023 kicks off, the CNSC Management, together with its entire staff, would like to wish you happiness and success in your endeavours and projects. The Cameroon National Shippers' Council, *your partner*, is committed to being at your side this year more than ever before.

Have an enjoyable reading!

Best wishes for the year 2023!

Auguste Mbappe Penda
CNSC General Manager



- **Major changes to the Finance Law :**
 - A- MEASURES TO PROMOTE IMPORT SUBSTITUTION ;**
 - B- MEASURES TO PROTECT HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT (Section 8) ;**
 - C- METHODS FOR COLLECTING CUSTOMS DUTIES ON THE IMPORTATION OF MOBILE PHONES, TABLETS AND DIGITAL TERMINALS (Section 6) ;**
 - D- METHODS FOR COLLECTING AND RECOVERING CUSTOMS DUTIES AND TAXES RELATING TO THE EXECUTION OF PUBLIC CONTRACTS.**
- **Photo coverage of 2022 key events at the CNSC.**

The Management and staff of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council wish you a joyous and prosperous New Year 2023

Finance Law

Major changes

New provisions of the 2023 finance law on foreign trade in Cameroon

Law No. 2022/020 of 27 December 2022 to lay down the finance law of the Republic of Cameroon for the year 2023 came into force on 1 January 2023. Some of the innovations of the new law are the introduction of new customs regulations that seek to encourage the local processing of goods in order to promote import substitution, increase customs duties on certain goods that are harmful to public health and the environment, and redefine the taxation method for imported mobile phones. Some of these customs innovations include:

A- MEASURES TO PROMOTE IMPORT SUBSTITUTION

• INCREASE OF CUSTOMS DUTIES AND TAXES ON THE EXPORT OF RAW MATERIALS (Section 10)

This State's decision to increase customs duties and taxes on raw materials is intended to toughen the conditions for the export of such materials in their raw state, thereby encouraging their local processing and the export of finished or manufactured products «*made in Cameroon*». The measure comes to add up to the various customs duty reductions and tax breaks granted to the extractive sector by the 2022 Finance Law. Some of the amendments include:

- *The increase of exit duties on wood log exports (from 50% to 60%);*

- *The increase of exit duties applicable to dressed and semi-dressed timber falling under tariff headings 4406, 4407 and 4409 (from 10% to 15%):* This is to encourage 'advanced' wood processing, with a view to creating a local wood value chain;

- *The increase of exit duties on the export of unprocessed cocoa beans (from 2% to 10%).*

• INTRODUCTION OF AN EXCISE DUTY ON IMPORTS OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT SOLD ON THE LOCAL MARKET (Section 8)

- *An excise duty of 25% on imports of cellulose paper and wadding or cellulose fibre webs used for domestic, sanitary or toilet purposes;*

- *An excise duty of 25% on imported articles and packaging made of cardboard and kraft paper, stoppers, caps and lids for bottles and other closing devices made of plastic and base metals; tubes and pipes and their fittings, plates, sheets, tapes and adhesives, whether or not in rolls, made of plastic materials;*

- *An excise duty of 12.5% on imports of mayonnaise, mustard and other tomato preparations or for sauces, soups, broths, mixed or homogenised condiments and seasoning, and food-grade ice;*

- **EXEMPTION FROM VAT ON THE PURCHASE OF PESTICIDES, FERTILIZERS AND INPUTS, AND ON CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL, FARMING AND FISHING EQUIPMENT (Section 122);** (examples: planting, processing, packaging, irrigation, farming,

fishing and hatchery equipment, see Annexes to Part 1 of the General Tax Code.)

B- MEASURES TO PROTECT HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT (Section 8)

By increasing taxes on alcohol and tobacco products, the Government intends to make these products less accessible to consumers, to fight against their abusive consumption and thus protect the health of the population. The measures taken include:

- *The increase of excise duties from 30% to 50%, on imports of tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes, whether or not containing nicotine, intended for inhalation without combustion; other products containing nicotine intended to absorb nicotine in the body; preparations for electronic cigarettes and electric vaporisation devices; pipes, cigar and cigarette holders and their parts;*

- *The imposition of a 30% excise duty on imported malt beers, grape wines, vermouths, fermented beverages and other mixtures of fermented and non-fermented beverages.*

C- METHODS FOR COLLECTING CUSTOMS DUTIES ON THE IMPORTATION OF MOBILE PHONES, TABLETS AND DIGITAL TERMINALS (Section 6)

For the purpose of amending the provisions of the 2019 Finance Law, the law provides for a new taxation regime for imported mobile phones and tablets. This implies that this taxation will no longer be done via a digital platform for the collection of communication credits from subscribers, but henceforth via the importer himself, who is required to declare and pay the Customs duties. On the other hand, the Finance Law provides for a 50% reduction on the taxable value of such imported equipment for a period of 24 months.

D- METHODS FOR COLLECTING AND RECOVERING CUSTOMS DUTIES AND TAXES RELATING TO THE EXECUTION OF PUBLIC CONTRACTS

In accordance with Article 7, public contracts will henceforth be concluded inclusive of all taxes, and subject to the customs duties and taxes in force. Any contract concluded exclusive of tax will not be opposable to the customs and tax administrations.

When concluding public contracts, authorising officers are required to ensure that the estimated amount of Customs duties and taxes are indicated where such contracts involve importation.

RETRO

Retrospect: key events at the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNSC) in 2022

15-21 January



The CNSC organised a sensitisation campaign on the AfCFTA at the «**AFRICAN BUSINESS WEEK**» which had as theme «**Africans Working in Synergy to Promote the African Continental Free Trade Area - AfCFTA**».

19-27 February



The CNSC participated at the PROMOTE exhibition fair with a focus on sensitising importers and exporters on issues related to foreign trade in Cameroon.

24-25 February



Hybrid seminar/webinar at the Douala Maritime Museum on «**Foreign Trade Innovations in 2022**» in the light of the 2022 Finance Law and particularly with regards to customs procedures.

3 March



Alongside the Ministry of External Relations, the CNSC commemorated Commonwealth Day by participating in the economic trade fair and the seminar on economic opportunities offered by the Commonwealth.

8 March



CNSC Ladies celebrated International Women's Rights Day under the theme «**Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow**». The celebration was marked by a parade of CNSC female staff in Douala.

27 March



The new Secretary General of the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (**MOWCA**), Dr. Paul Adalikwu, paid a working visit to the CNSC.

30 March



The CNSC participated at the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (**CWEIC**) in London, England, under the chairmanship of Lord Jonathan Peter Marland.

12-14 April



The CNSC and the African Export-Import Bank (**AFREXIMBANK**) signed a partnership agreement in favour of SMEs at the end of an international seminar themed «**Optimising Opportunities Open to SMEs within the AfCFTA**».

14 April



Working session at the CNSC with the Shippers' Councils of Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau and Senegal on the benchmarking of ECTN procedures and shippers assistance.

29 April



CNSC staff participated in an awareness workshop on workplace fire-fighting, mental health at work, and the cholera epidemic.

6 May



At the request of the Ministry of Trade, the CNSC hosted and chaired sectoral consultations to establish minimum rates applicable to the internal transport of goods.

25 May



The International Chamber of Commerce (**ICC**) International Trade Commission, chaired by the CNSC, organised a seminar on «**The Surge in freight rates**» and its impact on international trade.

19-25 June



The CNSC participated in the Commonwealth Business Forum (**CBF**) in Kigali, Rwanda under the leadership of its General Manager, Mr. Auguste Mbatpe Penda. Key personalities at the event included King Charles III, King of England, Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Lord Peter Marland, CWEIC Chairman.

25-27 July



CNSC Ladies joined in the celebration of the African Day of Seas and Oceans in Lome on the theme «**Development of the Blue Economy in Africa and Empowerment of Women in the Maritime and Port Sectors**».

28 July - 06 August



The CNSC took part in the 2022 Annual Central African Cross-Border Trade Fair (**FOTRAC**) which took place in Kye-Ossi (**Cameroon**), Bitam (**Gabon**) and Ebibeyin (**Equatorial Guinea**).

10-12 August



The CNSC hosted a sub-regional workshop organised by the secretariat of the Union of African Shippers' Councils (**UASC**) on «**The Role of African Shippers' Councils in the Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**».