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Dear shippers,

In August 2025, Cameroon hosted the continental conference of WIMAFRICA, a professional association of women working in the port and maritime sectors in Africa. The conference equally marked the 10th anniversary of this women's association which was attended by guests from about 10 member States. Discussions revolved around a variety of themes that addressed issues related to the support and education of women in the sustainable management of marine resources, the use of modern technologies and the establishment of cooperatives, amongst others.

Still in the course of this month, the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (CNCS) took part in the 5th session of the Senegal-Cameroon Joint Commission. The objective was to strengthen bilateral cooperation between both countries in strategic areas such as: trade, logistics, exchange of technical know-how and connectivity.

To conclude, the CNCS North Regional Office was present at the launch of the Region's 1st edition of the SMEs Cooperative Market under the theme: **"Social and Solidarity Economy Networks: Vectors for the Development of Regional and Local Authorities"**. This edition was organised by the North Regional Network for Social and Solidarity Economy.

Have an enjoyable reading!

Auguste Mbappe Penda

CNCS General Manager

WIMAFRICA ELECTS NEW BUREAU

WIMA-CAMEROON RECEIVES DELEGATIONS OF WOMEN OF THE MARITIME AND PORT SECTOR FROM SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES



● **WIMAFRICA: Mrs. Sylvie Laure Sibe, takes office as new president**

● **Several pirate activities in the Red Sea disrupt transit**

● **Shippers will henceforth benefit from simplified customs procedures**

● **Cooperation: Cameroon and Senegal, hand in glove**

● **Trade: Launch of the North Region SMEs cooperative market**

Mrs. Sylvie Laure Sibe takes office as new president

Discussions at the association's General Assembly touched on several themes



Transfer of power

Placed under the distinguished patronage of H.E. Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, the WIMAFRICA continental conference held on 27 and 28 August 2025 in Douala, Cameroon, on the theme: ***“Sustainable Blue Economy: Challenges and Opportunities for Women in Africa”***. About a hundred women

from member States like Angola, Benin, Gabon, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, DR Congo, Sierra Leone, Togo and host country, Cameroon, answered present to the event. The Conference was officially launched by **Mrs. Bias Mireille**, interim Inspector General at the Ministry of Transport, in her capacity as representative of the Minister of Transport. Among the guests was **Mr. Auguste Mbappe Penda**, General Manager of the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**), who is also WIMA-CAMEROON's Honorary President, and **Mr. Cyrus Ngo'o** Director General of the Port Authority of Douala. At the end of the conference deliberations, **Mrs. Sylvie Laure Sibe**, Director of Legal Affairs at the Port Authority of Douala, took office as the Association's President for a three-year term of office. **Mrs. Solange Nya**, Head of CNSC's Foreign Trade Operations Monitoring Service, was nominated to serve as the association's Treasurer. During discussions, participants focused on themes such as the involvement of women in blue economy development policies in Cameroon and Africa, the role of women in the fisheries value chain and capacity-building for women, as well as female entrepreneurship in the blue economy.



Maritime Transport

Transport disruption in the Red Sea

Several pirate activities in the Red Sea disrupt transi.



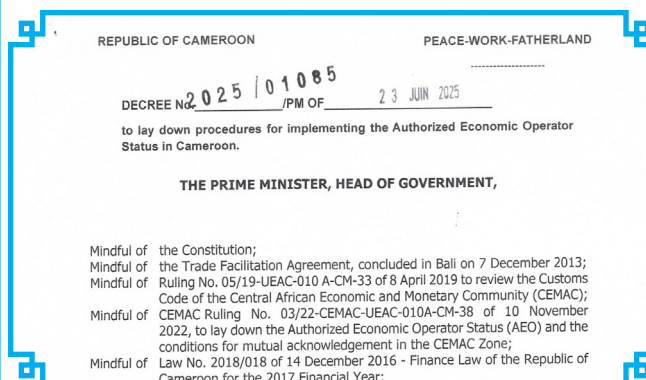
A vessel on the Red Sea

In a solidarity move in favour of the Palestinian peoples, Yemen's Houthis have been attacking several Israeli-affiliated shipping vessels since the later part of 2023. On 8 July 2025, the vessel **MV ETERNITY C**, was equally attacked on the Red Sea as it was heading towards the Eliat Port at the South of Israel. The attack left the vessel completely destroyed. The Red Sea is the transit route for about **18,000 vessels** every year, representing about **12%** of global trade. The escalation of tension in this region has led to the rerouting of vessels and hikes in freight rates. Consequently, a vessel now navigates an average of 32 days instead of 22 as was the case before. According to **CMA CGM**, these additional days have doubled the cost of shipping a container For Africa, the insecurity in this area has had as major consequence, the decrease in traffic and port revenue especially for the 5 African States endowed with a coastline along the Red Sea (**Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan**). Due to transshipment processes, Cameroonian ports are equally affected by this rerouting. This situation has brought about an increase in freight rates, extension of cargo supply deadlines and a significant increase in overall inflation rates for goods. It is worth reiterating that shippers must always subscribe to the relevant insurance policy, to ensure preparedness for potential risks from the conflict on the Red Sea, which covers the **Gulf of Aden** through to the strategic Strait of **Bad-el-Mandeb**.

Trade Facilitation

New regulation in force

Shippers will henceforth benefit from simplified customs procedures.



Decree of the Prime Minister

Decree No. 2025/01085/PM of 23 June 2025 to lay down procedures for implementing the authorized Economic Operator Status in Cameroon, marks a significant turning point for stakeholders in the foreign trade sector. This instrument has come to effectively facilitate trade by providing privileged access to simplified customs procedures for companies that respect international standards on security and safety. To the Cameroonian shipper, this status is an official recognition of their compliance with regulatory requirements, coupled with a set of concrete advantages, particularly the simplification of customs formalities, the reduction of physical inspections, the simplification of administrative and technical controls, and mutual recognition by other partner States. Access to the authorized Economic Operator Status, nonetheless, remains regulated. Companies seeking this status must be established in Cameroon and show proof of consistent activity for a period of at least three (3) years. These companies must be registered under the REEL taxation scheme and present financial statements that meet specific customs, tax and regulatory requirements. Given its mission of promote external trade by providing assistance to shippers, the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**) calls on business persons to be fully committed so as to ensure the credibility and efficiency of this new instrument. This will give them a significant competitive advantage and enable them to better integrate international supply chains.

Cooperation

Cameroon and Senegal, hand in glove

Both countries seal commitments during a Joint Commission meeting.



CNSC delegation

The Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**) took part in the 5th session of the Joint Commission of the Cameroon-Senegal Bilateral Cooperation. These meetings took place from 31 July to 1 August 2025 in Yaounde and were jointly chaired by the Cameroonian and Senegalese Ministers of External Relations. The CNSC actively participated in the discussions of the thematic sub-commission on economic and trade-related issues through the presentations of **Mr. Fernand Douglass Nolga**, Director for Trade Facilitation and Transport Observatory and **Mr. Theirry Mebara**, Service Head for International Cooperation. Deliberations resulted in the strengthening of bilateral cooperation between both countries in strategic areas such as: trade, logistics, exchange of technical know-how and connectivity.

Trade

Launch of the SMEs cooperative market

CNSC used this event to raise awareness about its missions.



Minister in charge of SMEs visiting CNSC stand

On 12 August 2025, the Minister of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicraft, **Mr. Achille Bassilekin III**, inaugurated the MINPMESSA North Regional Delegation and launched the first edition of the Region's SMEs cooperative market. This market was organised by the North Regional Network for Social and Solidarity Economy. As a true partner to SMEs, the CNSC North Regional Office participated in these events for better visibility and to present its missions to business persons in attendance. During his tour of the cooperative market, the Minister made a stop at the stand jointly occupied by the Cameroon National Shippers' Council (**CNSC**), the SME Promotion Agency and the Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Crafts (**CCIMA**) to encourage these institutions, urging them to spare no effort in providing technical support, training and accompanying production units for business persons of the North Region. The CNSC, by participating in these two events, established its presence in the North region with a view to providing support to SMEs.

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