

## SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

### **New Tide in the Supply Chain : The Wave of Digitalization**

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#### **Keywords: Freight Distribution; Logistics; Digitalization**

Among the major trends transforming global supply chains, such as sustainability, the changing commercial environment, and assessing risk and resilience, digitalization represents the latest wave. Most of the improvements in transportation and logistics since the onset of containerization have involved physical infrastructures. Transport and logistics flows were occurring at a velocity slow enough that much of the inefficiencies related to transactions and compliance (e.g. customs) were not particularly apparent. The growth and diffusion of containerization, larger containerships, coupled with a global network of container terminals were all drivers that increased the velocity of freight along supply chains. With trade liberalization and facilitation significant additional demands for shipping and logistics occurred, placing transactional and managerial pressures. It thus became apparent that the transactional dimension of freight distribution was taking a higher toll on its velocity in relation to the physical dimension.

With digitalization, supply chains moving towards a synchronization where the physical and transactional velocities freight are better matched. This synchronization is not planned but represents a convergence of interests based upon new technologies being available and their opportunistic applications to segments of the transport system. The presentation reviews the implications of the ongoing digitalization wave on supply chains.