



August 21, 2014

Ebola emergency and possible effect on BA activities in West Africa

In light of recent developments across selected countries in West Africa, notably the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease and its possible effects on the movement of goods and people across the sub-region, the Executive Committee of Borderless Alliance has decided to reach out to its members, as well as regional economic operators at large, with the following statement:

In order to prevent unnecessary health risks to its operational team, Borderless Alliance will be suspending, temporarily, some of its already planned activities in the affected countries, pending visible improvements of the situation in those countries. Meanwhile, our work plan will continue as has been scheduled in those other countries that are deemed non-risky, unless further developments dictate otherwise.

The Executive Committee of Borderless Alliance would also like to advise its members who are engaged in regional trade and transport, to exercise the highest levels of precaution, in order to ensure the safety of their personnel and their families at all times. Member organizations are, hereby, requested to instruct their representatives to adhere to all required health and safety guidelines, especially while completing formalities or crossing borders. To this effect, Borderless Alliance, through its Border Information Centers across the region, will make available printed material for distribution to economic operators at the border crossings.

Finally, and while we do not wish to overstep our mandate as a regional advocacy group that promotes economic integration and targets trade barriers, we stand ready to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, as well as regional authorities, within our capacity and if deemed necessary.

Borderless Alliance offers its condolences to the victims of this recent deadly outbreak. We express our full support and solidarity with all regional governments and the people of West Africa, in their efforts to contain this danger and bring things back to normalcy. Trade facilitation will help the affected areas and people recover after this crisis has passed.

Ziad HAMOUI

President of the Executive Committee