

BAKU DECLARATION

(June 2001)

DECLARATION
OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL^(*)
CONCERNING E-COMMERCE

(Baku Declaration)

THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL,

RECALLING that e-commerce provides a huge opportunity for the economic and social well-being of nations;

HAVING REGARD to the fact that the Internet and e-commerce will demand from Customs an appropriate response to the reconciliation of facilitation and control in response to traders' needs while ensuring the protection of society;

NOTING that the rapid growth in Internet trade and the resulting volume of international consignments require new approaches to Customs clearance at the frontier;

FURTHER NOTING that the purely national controls regarding intellectual property rights and prohibited and restricted content and technology will have limited effect due to the global nature of e-commerce;

CONSIDERING that given the pivotal role of Customs in international trade, a coherent strategic Customs policy on e-commerce is required to feed policy discussions on trade and taxation in other fora;

DESIRING to contribute to the development of this new economy and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs services;

DECLARES its intention to develop a coherent strategic WCO policy on e-commerce; and

INVITES Members of the Council to :

- accept and implement the revised Kyoto Convention in order to create a modern, transparent, clear, efficient, rapid and simplified e-Customs environment;
- accept the CCC Recommendation on the use of World Wide Web sites by Customs administrations, to ensure that official Customs information is readily available;
- support and actively contribute to the work undertaken by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in the area of e-commerce to ensure that Customs views are considered;

^(*) "Customs Co-operation Council (CCC)" is the official name of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

- strengthen the co-operation with other law enforcement agencies on a national and international level as a response to the global nature of e-commerce;
- seek co-operation and partnership with the Internet community on a national and international level in order to work together towards a common global understanding on minimum standards.

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