RESOLUTION OF THE POLICY COMMISSION ON AIR CARGO SECURITY

(December 2011)

THE POLICY COMMISSION

Noting :

In June 2005 the World Customs Organization (WCO) Council adopted the SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework);

In 2010, the WCO recognized the need to strengthen cooperation between Customs and Transport/Aviation Security Authorities in order to enhance the security of the air cargo supply chain;

That the SAFE Framework of Standards already advocates that the Customs administration should require advance electronic information on cargo shipments in time for adequate risk assessment to take place;

That the technical specifications for air cargo time limits within the SAFE Framework of Standards should be updated to respond to recent security incidents;

Throughout 2011, WCO Members have engaged in extensive and robust strategic and technical discussions on how security measures can be enhanced in an expeditious manner, while considering a variety of Member priorities, authorities and procedures;

Those discussions have included the roles and responsibilities of participants in the air cargo supply chain, the use of advance information, the use of intelligence-led risk-based targeting, the consideration of aligning with the guidelines or standards of other international organizations where possible, and the use of a multi-layered approach to achieve enhanced security and trade facilitation;

Important progress is being achieved in current discussions;

Desiring :

That air cargo security is enhanced by a swift response from the Global Customs Community to support and complement Transport/Aviation Security Authorities' procedures, through risk analysis and mitigation based on the use of advance information;

That a globally coordinated response be achieved through close cooperation among industry, other international organizations, and government authorities;

Recognizing :

That targeting and mitigating risks through sound risk management practices, using advance information, is desirable to effectively address security challenges;

That advance electronic information on air cargo should be provided as soon as possible, preferably prior to loading, and in time for adequate risk assessment and mitigation to take place;

The complexities of the air cargo supply chain and the variety of existing business models;

The need to understand the economic impact of any change in security paradigms;

The need to minimize any negative impact to the air cargo industry;

That "Do not load" messages should be issued only for high-risk air cargo posing a serious security threat;

That because the use of timely and accurate information will best contribute to protecting the global supply chain, Customs authorities may, in the future, require the reporting of cargo before it is loaded onto an aircraft at the airport of departure in order to have sufficient time and information to identify high-risk shipments;

Resolves :

To promote and encourage continuing work to address and find agreement on how to update standards on air cargo time limits in the SAFE Framework of Standards.

To take into account :

- empirical data derived from Members' pilot programmes and experiences;

- who has the information at various points in the supply chain;

- the unique roles, responsibilities and needs of Customs and Transport/Aviation Security Authorities in relation to air cargo security; and

- how data collection, exchange and analysis can be accomplished with minimal impact to industry.

To update and implement any necessary changes to the SAFE Framework of Standards at the earliest opportunity in order to keep it relevant, up to date and responsive to the global threats.

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