

DUBLIN RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE POLICY COMMISSION OF THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION ON THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION BY THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

(Dublin, 11 December 2013)

THE POLICY COMMISSION

WELCOMING the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement On Trade Facilitation (the "Trade Facilitation Agreement") as embodied in the Bali Package's Ministerial Decision, adopted at the WTO's Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia from 3 to 7 December 2013, under the framework of the Doha Development Agenda;

NOTING that :

the Ministerial Decision highlights the role of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in the implementation and administration of the Trade Facilitation Agreement;

full implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement will contribute to economic growth and recovery, improved revenue collection and the alleviation of poverty, and that the WCO has long supported the conclusion of a WTO Agreement;

Customs plays a fundamental role in trade facilitation and that the Customs administrations of many WTO Members have made positive contributions to the WTO Trade Facilitation negotiations which have now culminated in the Trade Facilitation Agreement;

the WTO Agreement is fully consistent with WCO tools and programmes on trade facilitation and compliance, including the WCO Economic Competitiveness Package, which incorporates, among other things, the Revised Kyoto Convention, the Data Model, Authorized Economic Operator programmes, the Coordinated Border Management Compendium and the Time Release Study;

RECOGNIZING that :

the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement will reduce red tape, promote Customs modernization, provide for simplified, harmonized and seamless procedures to allow goods to move along the supply chain more easily, more rapidly and at lower cost, and improve revenue collection and social protection;

the WCO is the centre of excellence on Customs matters;

the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement depends on capable and efficient Customs and requires the empowerment of national Customs authorities;

RESOLVES that the WCO :

is committed to the efficient implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement;

will engage immediately with the WTO in respect of the governance and future implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, in particular in the framework of the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee to be established;

will assist its Members to identify their needs, including availing of donor funding, in order to enhance capacity building to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement;

will, together with other international organizations and the business community, further enhance the provision of technical assistance/capacity building in an efficient and coordinated manner to achieve Customs reforms and modernization, and to support implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement;

will base its technical assistance/capacity building on existing WCO tools, tools under preparation and expertise in Member administrations, and will include tailor-made assistance to meet Members' identified and specific needs;

will further enhance its communication activities to raise its profile and that of national Customs administrations among political and business leaders.
