



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON CO-OPERATION
BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MIGRATION POLICY
DEVELOPMENT (ICMPD)
AND
THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)**



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (hereinafter referred as ICMPD) and the World Customs Organization* (hereinafter referred to as WCO) :

WISHING TO CO-ORDINATE their efforts within the terms of the recommendations of the Prague Ministerial Conference on Illegal Migration, and the Council Convention which established the Customs Co-operation Council as well as other applicable agreements, resolutions and declarations within their respective mandates;

RECOGNIZING that the ICMPD has responsibility for co-ordinating and providing Secretariat service to the Budapest Group, which is in turn responsible for the development of policies and programs to combat illegal migration;

RECOGNIZING that the WCO has responsibility for assisting Customs Administrations worldwide in defining import and export control policy and related law enforcement programmes which contribute to the fight against illegal migration through its focus on inspections and investigations of transborder movements of vehicles and goods;

ACKNOWLEDGING the potential risk to Customs and other related officers' contact with migrant traffickers and associated criminality during the course of their work and the need for appropriate information and training on this issue;

BEARING IN MIND the requirements of related international migration control treaties;

WISHING TO ESTABLISH effective co-operation with a view to enhancing international efforts for the control of illegal migration and associated transborder criminality;

AWARE that such co-operation should be developed in the light of experience and practical action;

THE ICMPD AND THE WCO ((hereinafter called the Parties) agree upon the following relating to the control of illegal migration in particular the trafficking of human beings) :

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

Have agreed on the following :

Article 1

Consultations

1. The Parties shall consult on policy issues regarding technical assistance and information on illegal migration for the purpose of achieving their objectives, implementing their mandates and co-ordinating their respective activities.
2. The Parties shall keep each other informed of developments in their activities that are of mutual and beneficial interest. Each Party will take into consideration observations of the other Party with a view to promotion, co-ordination and co-operation.
3. Whenever possible, consultation shall be arranged between the two Parties in such a manner as to secure the fullest utilization of resources.

Article 2

Exchange of Information and Documents

1. Each Party will designate an official as a focal point for the maintenance of close, direct and continuing contact with a view to ensuring the implementation of the provisions contained in this Memorandum of Understanding.
2. The Parties shall co-ordinate their efforts to achieve the best possible use of available resources, information including statistical and trend data, as well as legislative information relevant to the detection and interdiction of organized alien trafficking, and to ensure the effective utilization of their resources in the collection, analysis, publication and dissemination of such information.
3. Subject to such legal restrictions as may be in force, the exchange of information and documents shall be prompt and complete concerning matters of common interest between the Parties.
4. The Parties shall invite each other to attend as observers, meetings convened under their respective auspices, and which consider matters in which the other Party has an interest or possesses a technical competence.

Article 3

Technical Co-operation and Financial Assistance

1. When in the interest of their respective activities, either Party may seek the other's technical expertise and co-operation. In this respect, co-operation agreements on specific programmes will be developed as necessary, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of each Party to facilitate such activities.
2. In this process the Parties may combine their own human and financial resources. The Parties shall collaborate in identifying appropriate consultants and experts to develop and implement programmes to be undertaken by either organization.

Article 4

Technical Meetings

1. The Parties will consult each other to ensure the greatest possible degree of co-operation in regard to meetings of technical experts concerning questions on which both Parties have an interest.
2. The Parties may, when appropriate, agree to host joint consultation and technical meetings concerning questions in which both Parties have an interest.

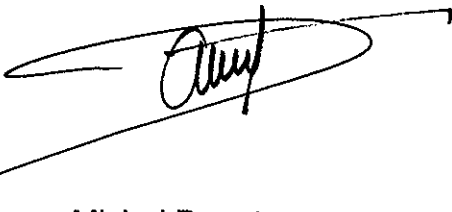
Article 5

Final Provisions

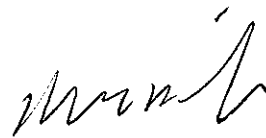
1. This Memorandum of Understanding will take effect upon signature by both Parties and will remain in force unless terminated by mutual consent, or by either Party giving six months written notice of termination to the other Party.
2. The provisions of this Memorandum will, however, remain in force beyond the date of such termination to the extent necessary to permit an orderly completion of activities and settlement of Accounts between Parties.
3. The Memorandum of Understanding may be modified by mutual written consent. Each Party will give full and sympathetic consideration to any proposal(s) advanced by the other Party.
4. In witness thereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have on behalf of the Parties hereto signed this Memorandum of Understanding in the day and year indicated below.

For the World Customs Organization (WCO) :

For the International Centre For
Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) :



Michel Danet
Secretary General



Jonas Widgren
Director

Signed in Brussels on 21st May 1999