



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO) AND

THE COOPERATION COUNCIL OF TURKIC SPEAKING

STATES

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION¹ (WCO),
HAVING ITS HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, AND
THE COOPERATION COUNCIL OF TURKIC SPEAKING STATES,
HAVING ITS HEADQUARTERS IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council), referred to hereinafter individually as "Party", or collectively as "Parties":

ACKNOWLEDGING that Customs is a critical institution for achieving regional integration and international economic prosperity, and for facilitating international trade;

RECOGNIZING that the WCO seeks to facilitate international trade through the use of international instruments, adoption of best practices and programmes for modernization of Customs techniques;

RECOGNIZING that the Turkic Council seeks to promote trade, investment and development regionally and to accelerate economic and social development in its Member States;

RECOGNIZING that the WCO and the Turkic Council both now wish to establish a mutually supportive relationship which is essential for the development of trade and the well-being of nations;

RECOGNIZING that the WCO and the Turkic Council both now wish to establish appropriate arrangements for cooperation which will help promote regional and international trade and otherwise be generally mutually beneficial to the Parties;

Hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE I
Objective

The Parties shall work to promote close cooperation and consultation on matters of common interest in order to harmonize their efforts in the discharge of their respective mandates and to contribute to the economic and social development of the Turkic Council Member States and Members of the WCO.

¹ Established as the Customs Co-operation Council.

ARTICLE II
Scope of cooperation

The Parties agree to establish and maintain effective, systematic consultation, cooperation, coordination and exchanges of information in order to promote this Memorandum of Understanding.

ARTICLE III
Financial obligations

- 3.1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Memorandum of Understanding, nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be taken as creating any financial obligation for either Party prior to such obligation being mutually and expressly agreed in writing.
- 3.2. Any expenditure arising from the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding that is routine and of negligible amount shall be borne by the Party concerned.
- 3.3. Where cooperation proposed by one of the Parties to the other under the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding has greater financial implications than the expenditure referred to above, the Turkic Council and the WCO shall consult each other with a view to determining the means of mobilizing the necessary funds, the most equitable way of defraying the expenditure and, where necessary funds cannot be readily found, shall decide on the most suitable means of procuring them.

ARTICLE IV
Representation at meetings

- 4.1. The Parties shall invite each other to their meetings of common interest and also grant each other observer status at meetings in accordance with the rules of procedure for granting of such status by each Organization.
- 4.2. The participation of representatives at such meetings shall be financed by each Party unless a Party offers to finance the participation of the other Party.

ARTICLE V
Joint training activities

Wherever possible, the WCO Secretariat and the Turkic Council Secretariat shall, within the limits of the resources available to them, coordinate joint training activities for Customs officers of the Member States of the Turkic Council, considering their needs and requirements.

For the purposes of conducting joint training activities, the Parties shall encourage the Member States of the Turkic Council to benefit from the facilities of the World Customs Organization Europe Regional Office for Capacity Building, located in Baku, Azerbaijan.

ARTICLE VI
Entry into force

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

ARTICLE VII
Amendments

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be reviewed upon the request of either the Secretary General of the WCO or the Secretary General of the Turkic Council, and may be amended by mutual agreement in writing.

ARTICLE VIII
Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding shall cease to have effect six months after either Party gives notice in writing to the other of its decision to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding.

ARTICLE IX
Effect of termination


The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall in no way affect obligations assumed during the duration of this Memorandum of Understanding.

ARTICLE X
Dispute resolution

Any dispute over the interpretation or application of any provision hereto shall be settled through negotiations or by such other means as the Parties shall mutually agree.

In witness whereof, the undersigned legal representatives of the Parties herein have duly affixed their signatures on the two originals of this Memorandum of Understanding in the English language.

Done at Brussels this 17th day of February 2015.


Kunio MIKURIYA
Secretary General
World Customs Organization


Ramil HASANOV
Secretary General
Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking
States