DECLARATION

of the

AEO European Regional Forum

The representatives of the participating countries of the WCO Europe Region

Welcome the SAFE Framework of Standards developed by the WCO as an optimal answer to facilitation and security challenges of the International Supply Chain;

Acknowledging the continuous efforts made by the European Region to further develop the AEO Concept in line with the WCO Safe Framework of Standards;

Highlighting the significant contribution of this international Forum to further raise awareness of the key importance of regional and international cooperation with special regard to AEO related issues;

Highlighting that AEO is a major security and facilitation tool that leads to modernizing customs when being introduced; AEO is seen as a tool that enhances economic growth and competitiveness. AEO tackles security and facilitation, thus important for all countries. Supply Chain management is key.

Highlighting need for consistency, predictability, transparency, sustainability (while ensuring a certain level of customization according to situation in a country).

Having shown their commitment and agreed to

State that the event was useful;

Define the end-to-end supply chain security and facilitation as an ultimate objective of the AEO concept;

Further explore benefits offered by the SAFE Framework of Standards based on continuous improvement of mutual trust between customs administrations and businesses;

Enhance their efforts to further develop the AEO model;

Mutually share their experience and best practices obtained in the course of introduction and implementation of AEO in order to provide assistance in overcoming AEO related eventual difficulties;

Further enhance cooperation by encouraging Members of the WCO Europe Region to organize such international events aiming at exchanging ideas and best practices, including Mutual Recognition Agreements

Astana, 24th May 2013