

PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Revised Update/maintenance mechanism for the E-Commerce Package October 2022

THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (PTC)

RECALLING that an update/maintenance mechanism for the Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce (hereafter E-Commerce FoS) and the tools supporting its implementation and forming part of the E-Commerce Package was endorsed by the PTC in June 2020 and by the Policy Commission and Council in December 2020, specifying a two-tier review mechanism that provides for an annual review of at least two annexes forming part of the E-Commerce Package and a four-year periodic review of the entire Package;

NOTING the experience from the first annual review of two annexes forming part of the E-Commerce Package that was conducted in financial year 2020/2021, as well as the experience from the first periodic review of the entire Package that was completed in June 2022;

DECIDES:

- (1) To amend the mechanism for update and maintenance of the E-Commerce Package, while maintaining the objective of the initially established review process, namely to adapt the E-Commerce Package to evolving business models and emerging issues across the global e-commerce supply chain.
- (2) The sharing of Members' experiences in implementing the E-Commerce FoS will be an integral part of the periodic review process, whereas the Secretariat will invite Members from all WCO regions to share relevant implementation experiences in the PTC sessions.
- (3) Based on the outcomes of those conversations, WCO Members, the Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG) or authorized observer organizations will notify the Secretariat of their proposed updates to any part of the E-Commerce Package, whether the Framework of Standards, the Technical Specifications or the annexes, which can be considered through the amended update/maintenance mechanism, which will comprise of a 4-year periodic review process that will consider the entire E-Commerce Package.
- (4) The review should be discussed and conducted in a transparent manner, mainly during the PTC meetings together with necessary intersessional work. Furthermore, in order to ensure the efficiency of discussions, the review may require in-person meetings alongside one of the PTC meetings where critical points are raised and discussed among Members with involvement also of relevant stakeholders.
- (5) The proposed updates to the E-Commerce Package as submitted to the Secretariat by WCO Members, the Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG) or authorized observer organizations will be reviewed by the Secretariat and will be submitted to the PTC for discussion as part of the periodic review process. As a first step, the PTC will conduct an analysis of the proposed updates and decide whether to initiate in-depth discussions on possible updates/amendments or not, while taking into account Members' implementation experiences.
- (6) In situations that require immediate action by the WCO and its Members to address emerging issues in the e-commerce environment, the PTC may propose to the Policy

Commission and Council to endorse an amendment(s) to the E-Commerce Package before the expiry of the 4-year periodic review cycle.
