



PERMANENT TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE

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219th/220th Sessions

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16 - 20 April 2018

Brussels, 28 March 2018.

SUMMARY DOCUMENT
(Item I. (b) on the Agenda)

Introduction

1. This Summary Document (SD) provides an overview of the subjects to be discussed and the actions expected from the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC). The objective of the SD is to provide more predictable guidance to the delegates on topics of focus and where input from Members is expected.
2. In line with the above mentioned, the Secretariat produced an SD for this meeting's sessions, based on the draft agenda and taking into account the proposal of the Correspondence Group on the Future of the PTC to have the items/sub-items classified into four different categories (A, B, C and D) :

A. [Report Back on Work in Progress;](#)

The report back items include discussion of the work of the various sub-groups and committees reporting to the PTC, as well as work undertaken by the Secretariat. The discussion on these items will be a short process. The agenda items will be supported by the respective papers of the various sub-committees, committees and working groups of the PTC, as well as other papers produced by the Secretariat or oral reports. Members will be expected to have read through the papers and will be given an opportunity to pose any questions or to launch a relevant discussion.

B. [Decision and Guidance;](#)

These items will include discussions on work of the various sub-groups and committees reporting to the PTC, and on work undertaken by the Secretariat.

The aim of this section will be to facilitate the provision of guidance and/or the delivery of decisions that will enable this work to progress.

C. Exploration and progression of Key Technical Issues;

These items will allow primarily for discussion of key (technical) issues, which Members and observers are facing, ideally common across a number of Members and/or regions. The time allotted to these items will be sufficient to allow for active participation by all delegates in fully exploring the issues raised.

D. Fostering Innovation in Customs Practice

This block of items will allow for the discussion of innovative practices in progress within member administrations/regions and observers. The principal aim will be to provide the meeting with information and awareness of innovation within Customs.

3. In addition to a summary of the background and expectations, an indication of whether the item is an A, B, C or D type, has been indicated next to each agenda item below.

I. OPENING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA ----- “B”

b) Adoption of the Draft Agenda and the Summary Document

Document: PC0495

Document: PC0496

4. The Secretariat has in consultation with the Chairperson prepared a Draft Agenda. The Secretariat has also prepared a Summary Document, the objective of which is to provide the delegates with clear and concise information on the substance of agenda items and guidance on the actions required from the PTC.
5. The PTC is invited to adopt the Draft Agenda (Doc. PC0495) and the Summary Document (Doc. PC0496).

II. UPDATE AND REPORTS----- “A”

a) Inter-sessional developments

Documents: PC0497

b) Report from the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on E-Commerce

Document: EM0020

c) Report from the 8th Meeting of the WCO Working Group on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (16-17 Oct 2017)

Document: PC_8_TFA_Executive Summary

- d) Report from the 73rd Meeting of the Information Management Sub-Committee (30-31 Oct 2017)**
Document: PM0440
- e) Report from the 18th Meeting of the SAFE Working Group (25-27 Oct 2017)**
Document: LF0168
- f) Report from the 17th Meeting of the Revised Kyoto Convention Management Committee (13-14 Nov 2017) Oral report**
Document: PO0103
- g) Report from the 14th Meeting of the Counterfeiting and Piracy Group (15-17 Nov 2017)**
Document: TR0052
- h) Report from the 37th WCO/UPU Contact Committee Meeting (16-17 Nov 2017)**
Document: PU0180
- i) Report from the 11th Meeting of the WCO/IATA/ICAO API/PNR Contact Committee (27-29 Nov 2017)**
Document : PS0075
- j) Report from the 78th Meeting of the Policy Commission (4-6 Dec 2017)**
Document : SP0630
- k) Report from the 9th Meeting of the WCO Working Group on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (15-16 Feb 2018)**
Document : Executive summary
- l) Report from the 19th Meeting of the SAFE Working Group (21-23 Feb 2018)**
Document : LF0179
- m) Report from the 9th Meeting of the Capacity Building Committee (26-28 February 2018)**
Document : HC0119
- n) Report from the 17th Meeting of the Integrity Sub-Committee (1-2 Mar 2018)**
Document : HI0089
- o) Highlights from the 37th Session of the Enforcement Committee (19-23 Mar 2018)**
Oral report
- p) Return-refill containers – an update**
Document : PC0498

6. Update and reports is a standing PTC agenda item which groups all “A”-items, namely reports from different WCO working bodies or from the Secretariat. Most of them are for note taking or approval and don’t require much discussion. However, delegates may raise any issue or launch a relevant discussion, if required.

III. Cooperation-Railways cooperation----- “C”

- a) Exchange of information between Railways and Customs
- b) Presentation by Members
- c) Railway-postal cargo pilot project

Document: PC0499

7. At its October 2017 sessions, the PTC examined, for the first time in recent years, the topic of Customs-Railways Cooperation and noted the associated issues, such as lack of an internationally agreed set of data for Customs purposes and lack of automation.
8. The PTC will now continue exploring the topic of Customs and Railways cooperation in the area of Customs procedures such as possible set of data elements for railway Customs transit declaration and will be invited to provide guidance on the way forward.
9. The PTC will be invited to;
 - share experiences with railway transportation in their countries;
 - provide feedback on the possible discussions and the way forward of future works on railway transportations;
 - prioritise issues that need to be resolved in relation to railway transportations, if any; and
 - volunteer their country as lead for the primary discussion in the possible platform or as lead for possible pilot projects.
10. In addition, the PTC will be informed about the progress on the railway-postal cargo pilot project led by the UPU.

IV. Transit----- “C”

- a) Update on recent activities in the area of transit
- b) The use of Transit Office Master Data

Document: PC0500
Document: PC0501

11. The PTC will be informed of the ongoing process of delivery of regional workshops aimed at promoting the implementation of the WCO Transit Guidelines that were launched in July 2017.
12. The PTC will be informed on the work of the Data Model Projects Team (DMPT) on the mechanism to exchange Master Data. The Master Data includes inter alia information on Transit Office. This information enables Customs administrations to be informed on all Customs offices that are involved in / supervising a Transit Corridor. The PTC will be invited to provide guidance on the need to harmonize the Coding system for Transit offices. More specifically, the PTC will be invited to:
 - share national experiences on the exchange / sharing of information on transit offices, including the format for the identification of a Customs office and other associated information relating to transit interconnectivity; and
 - provide policy orientation to the DMPT relating to the dataset of the Master Data for transit, as well as the standardization of the format for the identification of a transit Customs office;

V. E-Commerce----- “C”

- a) Feedback from the First Global Cross-Border E-Commerce Conference (Beijing, 9-10 Feb 2018)
- b) Report from the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on E-Commerce (9-12 April 2018)
- c) Draft Cross-Border E-Commerce Framework of Standards
- d) Update of the Immediate Release Guidelines

Oral report
Document: PC0502
Document: PC0503

13. The December 2017 Policy Commission meeting recommended that the envisaged WCO tool on cross-border E-Commerce be developed as a "framework of standards" and as a "living and viable" tool that should also include an implementation strategy and plan through a robust capacity building mechanism to support a harmonized approach to cross-border E-Commerce, irrespective of the value of the shipments involved.
14. In line with this recommendation, a draft Framework of Standards will be submitted to the PTC for its approval and further guidance.
15. The Meeting will also be updated on the outcomes from the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on E-Commerce and from the First Global Cross-Border E-Commerce Conference held in Beijing in February 2018.
16. In addition, the PTC will be asked to endorse the updated Immediate Release Guidelines.

VI. Integrated Supply Chain Management (ISCM) ----- “B”

- o Draft updated ISCM Guidelines

Document: PC0504

17. At its October 2017 sessions, the PTC agreed with the two-phased approach for the quick update of the ISCM Guidelines during this review cycle and their final integration into the SAFE Framework of Standards during the next review cycle.
18. Accordingly, the draft updated ISCM Guidelines have been developed through the SAFE Sub-Group and the SAFE Working Group.
19. The PTC will now be provided with the Draft updated ISCM Guidelines for discussion and approval. The PTC will also be asked to provide guidance on the implementation of the ISCM concept and related future work.

VII. SAFE Authorized Economic Operators and TFA Article 7.7----- “B”

- o Linkages between the SAFE Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Programme and Article 7.7 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

Document: PC0505

20. Following the SAFE Working Group’s decision, a document in the form of “Frequently Asked Questions” concerning linkages (similarities and differences) between the SAFE AEO Programme and Article 7.7 of the WTO TFA was drafted by the Secretariat with the support of the EU. This draft document was discussed and further refined at the SAFE Sub-Group meeting (18-20 December 2017) and at the SAFE Working Group meeting (21-23 February 2018).
21. The SAFE Working Group recommended the submission of this document to the PTC for consideration and adoption, if appropriate.

VIII. Time Release Study (TRS) ----- “B”

- a) Updated TRS Guidance
- b) Presentation by India

Document: PC0506

22. An updated version of the TRS Guide was presented at the Joint PTC/TFAWG Meeting held in October last year. On that occasion, note was taken of the recommendations to improve the new draft TRS Guidance and Members were invited to submit their concrete proposals to the WCO Secretariat.
23. During the intersession, the Guidance was further updated. The PTC will now be invited to approve the finalized document and to provide guidance on the enhanced use of the TRS for performance measurement, in particular with regards to the monitoring and evaluation of progress in TFA implementation.

24. In addition, the PTC will be informed about the Indian experience in implementing the TRS.

IX. Customs revenue benchmarking database----- “D”

- Presentation by Switzerland
25. At the 4th Meeting of the WCO Working Group on Revenue Compliance and Fraud, held in November last year, Switzerland delivered a presentation on the proposal for a Customs Revenue Benchmarking Database and the final outcomes of the study and exploratory meetings conducted so far.
26. The WG recommended that a discussion be held during the next Session of the Permanent Technical Committee in 2018 for further guidance and consideration. The PTC will now be invited to hear more about this initiative, discuss and provide guidance.

X. World Bank’s “Doing Business” ----- “C”

- Update on the engagement with the World Bank on “Doing Business”
Oral report
27. Concerns surrounding the World Bank’s “Doing Business” report have been raised and discussed at recent sessions of the Policy Commission. The WCO has accordingly engaged with the World Bank with a view to enhancing the methodology used for the “Doing Business” survey, particularly the “Trading Across Borders” section, and to facilitate input from Customs to improve the quality of the survey.
28. The PTC will be updated on the latest developments and will have the opportunity to discuss this topic.

XI. Glossary of International Customs Terms----- “B”

- New proposed terms for inclusion in the Glossary
Document: PC0507
29. The October 2017 PTC approved the seven terms with a view to incorporating them in the Glossary and approved the proposed revised definition of the ‘SAFE Framework of Standards’. It also decided that the next update of the Glossary was to be prepared by the Secretariat with the support of volunteers from Member Customs administrations.
30. The PTC will now be invited to examine the 4 proposed terms (Customs territory, Customs valuation, De minimis, Globally Networked Customs) and approve them, with a view to incorporating them in the Glossary.

XII. Special Customs Zones / Free Zones----- “C”

- o Progress report Special Customs zones / Free Zones

Document: PC0508

31. The WCO is currently developing a detailed project plan which includes online survey and regional workshops to learn about experiences of Members. The aim is to develop a research paper which will contribute to the possible revision of an existing instrument such as RKC and its guidelines or the development of a new WCO tool on Customs procedures for Special Customs Zones / Free Zones.

32. The PTC will be updated on the progress to date and be invited to provide any further guidance in that respect. More specifically, the PTC will be invited to:

- share their experience and challenges relating to SCZ/FZs in their countries;
- provide feedback on the key issues to be analysed and discussed;
- consider the proposed project plan and, if appropriate, approve it.

XIII. Coordinated Border Management (CBM) ----- “B”

- a) Update of the CBM Compendium

Document: PC0509

- b) Update on the Customs-Police Handbook

Presentation

33. The CBM Compendium is being updated to include more national practices in the area of coordinated border management. The PTC will be invited to discuss the updated tool and decide whether it can be submitted to the Council for approval.

34. The PTC will be updated on the Customs-Police Handbook which is intended to be added to the CBM Compendium as well.

XIV. DAY ON DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES----- “D”

35. After extensive discussions and inputs put forward at its last sessions in October 2017, the PTC decided to have a whole day devoted to disruptive technologies.

- a) **Study Report on Disruptive Technologies**

Document: PC0510

36. As agreed by the last Meeting of the PTC, during the intersession, the Virtual Working Group on the Future of Customs would work on including all the work on disruptive technologies already carried out in a Study Report for submission to the PTC in April 2018. The Study Report will now be submitted to the PTC for discussion and guidance on the objectives, structure and the way forward for the Study Report on Disruptive Technologies.

b) Workshops on disruptive technologies

37. The PTC delegates will be able to attend a number of workshops that will focus on different disruptive technologies such as Blockchain, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Biometrics, cryptocurrencies, drones, 3D printing etc that will expose practical application in Customs, the global supply chain and beyond.

c) Plenary discussion – to conclude on the Study Report on Disruptive Technologies

Document: PC0510

38. The workshops on disruptive technologies will allow participants to come up with a number of new ideas and draw some new conclusions that could be included in the Study Report. The plenary session will provide an opportunity to suggest new additions to this tool that is expected to be adopted by the PTC, subject to any proposed amendments. The delegates will be invited to provide feedback from the discussions in the workshops on disruptive technologies during Day III of the PTC meeting with the aim of eventually feeding this into the Study report during the intersession.

XV. Non-intrusive inspection (NII) ----- “A”

- o Update from the 3rd Meeting of the Technical Experts Group on Non-intrusive Inspection (12-13 March 2018)
39. Following the 2nd Meeting of the Technical Experts Group on Non-intrusive Inspection (TEG-NII), the vendors set out to finalize V2.0 technical format document of the UFF which will be use as the basis of testing the interoperability of the different NII equipment and the possibility of sharing images. The 3rd Meeting of the TEG-NII (Kampala, 12/13 March 2018) discussed the finalization of the UFF. The PTC will now be updated on these discussions.

XVI. Trader Identification Number (TIN) ----- “C”

- a) Draft Council Recommendation on TIN
- b) Draft Guidelines on TIN

Document: PC0512

40. Recognizing the need for a globally unique Trader Identification Number (TIN) for an efficient implementation of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) – Mutual Recognition Arrangements/Agreements (MRAs), the SAFE Working Group (SWG) and the Data Model Projects Team (DMPT) have collaboratively developed a globally unique TIN format and associated processes. Based on this, a draft Council Recommendation and draft Guidelines on TIN have been finalized.

41. The PTC will be invited to:

- consider and, if appropriate, approve the Draft Council Recommendation and draft Guidelines on Trader Identification Number (Annexes I and II); and
- discuss and provide guidance on the AEO master data set (Annex III) to enable the SWG and the DMPT to finalizing it and carrying out further work relating to Master Data structure and data exchange mechanic.

XVII. Data Analysis----- “C”

- Draft Guidance on Data Analytics

Document: PC0513

42. Based on the discussions held at the previous PTC and SWG sessions, a draft Guidance on Data Analytics has been developed. The PTC will discuss, provide guidance from a wider perspective, and potentially approve it. In addition, the PTC will be invited to share related good practices and successful working examples/initiatives that could be incorporated into the Handbook.

XVIII. IT Guide for Executives----- “B”

- Updated IT Guide for Executives

Document: PC0514

43. At its 72nd Meeting, the Information Management Sub-Committee (IMSC) discussed the WCO Guide for Executives and the need of updating it. In the intersession, the Secretariat produced an updated version of the Guide which will now be submitted to the PTC for adoption.

XIX. PTC Work Programme----- “B”

- Update of the PTC Work Programme 2016-2019

Document: PC0515

44. The PTC works in line with a long-term Work Programme that is directly linked to the WCO Strategic Plan. It is intended to be updated in accordance with the decisions taken by the Committee and the governing bodies of the WCO, namely the Policy Commission and the Council.

45. The WP 2016-2019 has been updated, with progress included, to reflect inter-sessional developments. The PTC will be invited to:

- examine the suggested amendments to the PTC Work Programme 2016-2019, provide suggestions for improvements and, if appropriate, endorse them; and

- take note of the progress made on the implementation of the PTC Work Programme 2016-2019 so far, as well as put forward any guidance or recommendations for future improvements.

XX. Elections----- “B”

- Elections of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the PTC
46. The PTC elects a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson each year. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are elected for a period of one year and are eligible for re-election.
47. The PTC will be invited to elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson amongst its delegates, for the 2018/2019 financial year.

XXI. Any other business----- “B”

- a) Proposals for agenda items for the next PTC meeting
 - b) Upcoming events
48. The PTC will be provided with an opportunity to suggest agenda items for the next PTC meeting. The delegates are encouraged to put forward non-paper(s) which will give more detail on the background of the topic.
49. Under the same item, the Secretariat will provide an update on the WCO events and meetings. Delegates are encouraged to share any information on upcoming workshops, seminars, conferences or other relevant meetings of interest to PTC delegates.
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