CUSTOMS - DRIVING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

PTC – 30 October 2019
Environmental crime is a serious global problem that has wide implications on national and international security, social and economic development, global health, and biodiversity and habitat.

Pollution of air, water and land, extinction of wildlife and depletion of natural resources evoke consequences of unprecedented scale.
• **2008** WCO Council adopted Recommendation concerning Actions Against Cross-Border Environmental Offences

• **2001** - WCO active Partner to Green Customs Initiative (GCI)
  – series of collaborative activities by partner organizations, coordinated by UNEP - aimed at raising awareness of Customs officers to trade-related MEAs

• **2010** – WCO Environment Programme
DEMETER

Possibly means "earth mother",

(derived from Greek δα (da) meaning "earth" and μητηρ (meter) meaning "mother")

Greek mythology:
the goddess of agricultural

Roman counterpart: Ceres
DEMETER IV (2018)

- **37 warning messages** were sent to inform of suspicious shipments, request criminal background checks and verify documents
- **204 Cases** generated
- **75 Customs administrations** participated in biggest trans-national Customs operation targeting illegal trafficking of waste
DEMETER V - PARTICIPATION

• Participating Members Administrations: 83
  – 183 CENcomm accounts for NCPs and OCU

• International Organizations: 6
  – BRS Convention Sec; UN Environment; INTERPOL; EUROPOL; Basel Con Regional Centre; WCO Sec

• RILOs: 6
DEMETER V - GENERAL

• 1 – 30 September 2019

• Focus: Waste as defined in Basel Convention
  – Specific Focus: Plastic Waste & E Waste

• Montreal Protocol Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer / ODS
  – HFCs
DEMETER V - MONTREAL

• Results not released yet
• 227 cases reported
• 195 out of 227 – commodities covered by Montreal Protocol

• Key commodities:
  – ODS Refrigerants
  – Equipment containing refrigerants
  – Halons
DEMETER V - BASEL

- 195 cases reported
- 4,165.9 tons and 59,983 pieces
- Key commodities:
  - E WASTE
  - Plastic Waste
  - Metal Scrap
  - Waste Vehicle Parts
  - Used Clothing / textiles
Global GDP is estimated at US $ 66.9 trillion, but the global value of nature at US $ 145.1 trillion
Customs Environmental Scan 2019

- Trade patterns - impacted by consumer demands and trends are showing growing public interest on fight against climate change and, more broadly, need to adopt more sustainable ways of living
- Public society is more and more willing to be ensured that products they are consuming originated from sustainable trade
- Customs administrations are in front line to control these products and decide to whether release them or to seize them
SUSTAINABILITY

• Meeting the needs of the current
• without compromising the needs of the future generations
• remains at the heart of the issue of sustainability
Sustainability is composed of either 3 or 4 pillars, depending on the source:

- social (people)
- economic (profits)
- environmental (planet)
- human (WB)
SUSTAINABILITY AND CUSTOMS –

Role:

– 1. SDGs
– 2. INTERNAL
– 3. MEAs
– 4. Economic
MEAs

Fight crimes - international community concluded a number of **Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)** with international trade-related provisions

• Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**)  
• **Basel Convention** on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal  
• **Cartagena Protocol** on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity  
• Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (**CWC**) (**Org for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons - OPCW**)  
• **Montreal Protocol** on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer  
• **Rotterdam Convention** on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade  
• **Stockholm Convention** on Persistent Organic Pollutants  
• **Minamata Convention** on Mercury
STRATEGIC POSITION OF CUSTOMS

• Customs Authorities perform key functions for a country's development and play a leading role within the stability and development of foreign trade

• Customs Administrations - uniquely mandated and positioned at borders of a country, or at critical ‘chokepoints’ in the supply chain
THREAT AREAS

• **Plastic** and Electronic / Electrical **Waste** (E-waste)
• **ODS** (specifically HFC = GHG with high GWP)
• **Wildlife**
  – Pangolin
  – Ivory (Elephant)
  – T & T
  – Rhino Horn
  – Rosewood
DRIVERS OF CHANGE

- Population Explosion
- Economic Expansion
- ‘City Planet’
- Demand for fuel
- Escalating Appetite
- Demand on Water Sources
- Consumerism
Roux Raath

roux.raath@wcoomd.org