



PERMANENT
TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE

PC0553Ea

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225th/226th Sessions

-

28-31 October 2019

Brussels, 15 October 2019

SUMMARY DOCUMENT
(Item I.c. 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 a 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.

DAY I

Monday 28 October 2019

I. Opening and adoption of the Agenda ----- "B"

- a. Keynote speech by Dr. Monique ELOIT, Director General, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)*
- b. Opening address by Dr. Kunio MIKURIYA, Secretary General, WCO*
- c. Adoption of the Draft Agenda and the Summary Document*

**Document: PC0552
Document: PC0553**

4. Director General of the OIE, Dr. Monique ELOIT will offer the keynote speech and Secretary General Mr. Kunio MIKURIYA will offer the opening address to the PTC. Delegates will have the opportunity to engage with the Director General and Secretary General to comment on their speeches and ask questions.
5. The Secretariat has in consultation with the Chairperson prepared a Draft Agenda. The Secretariat has also prepared a Summary Document with 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.

6. The adoption of the Draft Agenda and the Summary Document giving delegates the opportunity to suggest changes or additional topics for discussion.
7. The PTC is invited to adopt the Draft Agenda and the Summary Document.

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

a. Panel discussion to address latest challenges and opportunities in cooperation between Customs and other border agencies

Document: PC0554

8. Coordinated Border Management (CBM) continues to be a key priority for the WCO and its Members. The WCO has in the last year and more intensified cooperation with a number of international standard-setting organizations that are of relevance to Customs and border management. A panel of speakers coming from a number of these organizations will have an opportunity to discuss, with the WCO and its Members, some of the latest challenges and opportunities for cooperation between Customs and other border agencies.

b. Single Window: WCO Reform and Modernization – Monitoring Activities and Projects (RAM-MAP) and Single Window Interactive Map (SWIM) – Progress report

Document: PC0555
Annex: PC0555EAE1a

9. The Secretariat will report on progress on current state of RAMMAP-SWIM. The report will emphasize currently available functionalities, information present in the data base and upcoming developments in the redesigned version. During the PTC there will be a live demonstration of the platform. The PTC will take note and will be asked to provide eventual inputs, suggestions for promoting the platform and making it a useful tool for Member Administrations.

c. Globally Networked Customs (GNC) – latest technologies bringing momentum to the GNC agenda

Document: PC0556
Document: PC0364
Document: PC0374
Document: SC0170
Document: SP0550E1a
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10. The Secretariat will seek Members' guidance and support for further actions to enhance the implementation of the GNC agenda, taking stock of the current state of play on exchanges of information and considering the impact that latest technologies could have in this context and in the context of the Single Window environments. The Secretariat will also report on the current GNC Utility Blocks (UBs) and on issues related to the certification process.
11. The PTC will be invited to provide guidance and discuss the way forward on the different aspects of interoperability, including development of new UBs, as well as the update of the GNC Handbook.

III. IMO FAL Compendium ----- “B”

- *Revision and future maintenance of the IMO FAL Compendium on Facilitation and Electronic Business*

Document: PC0557

12. At its 201st /202nd and 205th/206th Sessions, the PTC had agreed to involve the Data Model Project Team (DMPT) more deeply in the management of the IMO FAL Compendium and to work on the technical maintenance for the IMO FAL Compendium.
13. In January 2019, the IMO FAL Focus Group of the DMPT finalized the draft revised IMO FAL Compendium, including an IMO Data Set and an IMO Reference Data Model, which was presented by WCO to the 43rd session of the IMO Facilitation Committee (FAL 43) and endorsed by this committee. FAL 43 also discussed the future responsibility for the function of maintaining the revised IMO FAL Compendium and agreed to move this responsibility to IMO and to establish a partnership agreement on the basic principles for a collaborative maintenance work between the IMO, WCO, UNECE, and ISO.
14. The Secretariat will report on the outcome of FAL 43 and the decisions that have been taken regarding the future maintenance of the revised IMO FAL Compendium. The PTC will be invited to take note on the revised IMO FAL Compendium and to agree on the decision of FAL 43 regarding the responsibility for the future maintenance work.

IV. Update and reports - 1. items for decision ----- “B”

a. Inter-sessional developments

b. Report from the 76th Meeting of the Information management Sub-Committee (23-24 May 2018)

c. Report from the 16th Meeting of the WCO Counterfeiting and Piracy (CAP) Group (30 September - 1 October 2019)

- Terms of Reference (ToR) of the CAP Group

Document: PC0558

Document: PM0486

Document: PC0600

IV. Update and reports - 2. items for information ----- “A”

d. Report from the 21st Meeting of the SAFE Working Group (16-18 April 2019)

e. Report from the 5th Meeting of the Technical Experts Group on Non-Intrusive Inspection (TEG-NII) (10-11 June 2019)

f. Report from the 20th Meeting of the Revised Kyoto Convention Management Committee (17-18 June 2019)

- g. Report from the 81st Session of the Policy Commission (24-26 June 2019)*
- h. Report from the 133th / 134th Sessions of the Council (27-29 June 2019)*
- i. Report from the 22nd Meeting of the SAFE Working Group (23-25 October 2019)*

Document: LF0204
Document: PI0020
Document: PO0124
Document: SP0690
Document: SC0186

15. 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. Some of them require approval (sub-items under 1.), while the majority are for notetaking and don’t require much discussion (sub-items under 2.). However, delegates may raise any issue or launch a relevant discussion, if required.
16. In addition, the CAP Group has approved the draft ToR at its meeting in September 2019. The PTC will be requested to approve the revised ToR, if appropriate, to be sent to the December 2019 Policy Commission.

V. Time Release Study (TRS) ----- “C”

a. Members experiences in using the Time Release Study

- *Presentation by Mexico*
- *Presentation by Burundi*

b. Update on the cooperation between the WCO and the World Bank Group on the use of the TRS Software

Document: PC0559

17. The PTC will be informed about WCO Members’ recent experience in carrying out TRS.
18. In addition, the PTC will be updated on the WCO cooperation with the World Bank Group related to the update of the TRS software, including a workshop organized in the context of updating the TRS software. The PTC will also be invited to provide further inputs and recommendations for this work.

VI. Passenger Facilitation and Control ----- “B”

a. Cruise Ship Report: “Way forward to improve Cruise Ship Controls – A Customs Perspective”

Annex: PC0560EAE1a

19. At its last meeting, the PTC took note and provided guidance to the work of the Brussels-based Attaches Working Group on Cruise Ships. The PTC will now have an

opportunity to examine the final Cruise Ship Report for review and endorsement before submission to the December 2019 Policy Commission. The PTC will also be orally updated on the discussions on this topic which will take place at the extraordinary meeting of the Enforcement Committee in the week of 21 October 2019.

b. Passenger Facilitation and Control in all modes of transport

Document: PC0601

20. The June 2019 Policy Commission was updated with the ongoing work on Cruise Ship Controls. The need to have a harmonized approach for passenger facilitation and control across different modes of transport was raised during the discussion.
21. The PTC will be invited to provide its guidance on how to address the topic, taking into account the potential recommendation provided by the API/PNR Members' only meeting that will be convened on 2 October 2019.

DAY II
Tuesday 29 October 2019

VII. Customs-Railways Cooperation ----- "B"

- *Progress report on DMPT discussion and field studies*

Document: PC0561

22. The Secretariat will explain the latest developments and work in the area of Customs-Railways cooperation, including the field studies carried out in Bulgaria and Kazakhstan, the result of the Data Model Projects Team (DMPT) survey and DMPT discussions on railway transit data harmonization. The PTC will be invited to take note of the progress report, to discuss the way forward and to provide guidance.

VIII. Small Island Economies' (SIEs) initiative ----- "B"

- *Draft Guidance on Small Island Economies*

Document: PC0562

23. The March 2019 PTC had discussed the topic of Small Island Economies (SIEs) and took note of the work done in the area of SIEs; as well as provided feedback confirming the importance of this work continuing for the benefit of this segment of the organization's membership and other SIEs.
24. The Secretariat will report on the progress to date and will provide an update on the development of the Guidance for Customs administrations in SIEs based on the draft outline approved by the December 2018 Policy Commission and in collaboration with Regional Organizations. The Co-chairs of the Virtual Drafting Working Group will present the preliminary draft of the envisaged Guidance.

25. The PTC will be requested to discuss the work done so far and provide further guidance on the development of the envisaged guidance for Customs administrations in SIEs.

IX. Special Customs Zones (SCZs) ----- “B”

- a. *Presentation(s) from the private sector*
- b. *WCO research paper on SCZs*
- c. *Draft Guidance on SCZs*

Document: PC0563
Annex: PC0563EAE1a
Annex: PC0563EAE2a

26. After the presentations from the private sector on the benefits and challenges relating to Special Customs Zones, the Secretariat will introduce the WCO research paper on the topic. The Secretariat will also present the draft Guidance. The PTC will be invited to take note of the presentation(s) and the research paper, and to discuss the draft Guidance, as well as to provide inputs/comments for further improvements.

X. Inward and outward processing procedures ----- “B”

- *Update of the Handbook on Inward and Outward Processing Procedures*

Document: PC0565

Two years after the publishing of the Handbook on Inward and Outward Processing Procedures, the WCO held a Global Experience-Sharing Workshop on this topic in May 2019 in Brussels, with a view of further updating and improving the Handbook. The Workshop showed a number of interesting results about these procedures, which are also mandatory technical measures under Article 10.9 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

27. The PTC will be invited to discuss and provide guidance for the update of the Handbook.

XI. Transit ----- “B”

- *WCO contribution for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries*
- *Compendium of Best Practices in the Area of Transit*

Document: PC0566
Annex: PC0566EAE1a

28. The PTC will be provided with an update regarding the WCO efforts to support the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the decade 2014-2024. As part of those efforts, following the launch of the WCO

Transit Guidelines in July 2017, the WCO put the focus on the implementation of the guidelines and the collection of best practices. In this context regional workshops on transit were organized for the six WCO regions. The workshops were aimed at promoting the implementation of the Transit Guidelines and at collecting national and regional good practices in the area of transit. Members' practices were also provided in response to a call for submission of best practices. The Secretariat has compiled the inputs received in a draft Compendium of Best Practices in the Area of Transit.

29. The PTC will be invited to examine the draft Compendium and provide suggestions and inputs in view of finalizing the Compendium and submitting it for endorsement at the April 2020 PTC sessions.

DAY III
Wednesday 30 October 2019

XII. Future of Customs ----- "D"

a. Panel discussion on Strategic foresight – "Designing the Future of Customs"

- *OECD*
- *EU DG Joint Research Center*
- *IPCSA*

Document: PC0567

30. At its meeting in April 2017, the PTC decided that the Virtual Working Group on the Future of Customs will focus on exploring two different areas: i) disruptive technologies; and ii) strategic foresight. The Group and the PTC have since been focusing mainly on the first of the two priorities.

31. As a way of familiarizing the PTC with the topic, at its November 2018 meeting, the EU DG Joint Research Center presented the main principles of foresight and the outline of a project on the Future of Customs in the EU.

32. The PTC will now have an opportunity to learn more about strategic foresight from a number of speakers who will, through a panel discussion, address in particular the way this methodology can be used to design the Future of Customs, which has been underlined as an important priority during the June 2019 Council and Dialogue between the Private Sector Consultative Group and the Policy Commission, as well as within other fora.

b. Blockchain technology for the future of Customs: challenges encountered so far – panel discussion

33. At its last meeting, the PTC discussed the use of blockchain in Customs and other regulatory processes, associated challenges, prerequisites and potential policy, legal and technical considerations. The PTC underscored the need for interoperability of blockchains and standardization of data including interface thereof with Customs systems, and suggested the WCO to carry out work in these areas in coordination with other

international organizations and relevant stakeholders, with a view to potentially developing guidance/recommendations.

34. At this meeting, the PTC will have an opportunity to hear about the challenges faced by Customs administrations directly involved in blockchain pilot projects, with a view to gaining a better understanding of the benefits observed, especially in terms of increasing the level of access to information required for their regulatory processes and procedures.
35. The PTC will be invited to take note and provide recommendations for further progressing the work on this topic.

XIII. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ----- “B”

- *How can trade facilitation and Customs support SDGs, especially in managing plastic and e-wastes*
- *Members’s operational experience (tbc)*
- *Basel Convention Secretariat (tbc)*

Document: PC0568

36. During the last session of the PTC, Members acknowledged the role that Customs can play to support the achievement of the United Nations SDGs.
37. The Sustainable Development Agenda calls for, among others, synergic effort to monitor and make the entire supply chain traceable for environmental sustainability. Within the framework of coordinated border management, Customs administrations can have a role in managing the risks that the cross-border trade might pose to the environment.
38. Recently, plastic and e-wastes have garnered a lot of attention in international fora, especially with reference to the environmental crisis brought about by illegal waste importation to Asia/Pacific and Africa regions originating in Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America Members. In this context, Customs are confronted with an increasing pressure on shaping feasible solutions to ensure compliant legal waste importation, while promoting waste export control.
39. The PTC will consider and provide guidance how to enhance the Customs role in managing plastic and e-wastes, after having listened to some initiatives and operational experience shared by Members and other international organizations which are leading on the topic.

XIV. Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP) ----- “B”

a. Aligning Action Plan for Phase IV with the new WCO Strategic Plan

Document: PC0569

b. Break out-session on low level of accessions to conventions sponsored or administered by the WCO and implementation of WCO instruments

40. The December 2018 Policy Commission had endorsed the ECP Action Plan for Phase IV (January 2019-December 2020) which was in line with the WCO Strategic Plan. The PTC will be invited to discuss the draft revised Action Plan, which is aligned with the new WCO Strategic Plan endorsed by the June 2019 Council and, if appropriate, endorse it.
41. The management and promotion of instruments and tools on trade security and facilitation is a key activity in the process of implementation of the ECP Action Plans. The low level of accessions to conventions sponsored or administered by the WCO and implementation of WCO instruments and tools has been raised by Members and stakeholders on several occasions.
42. The PTC will have an opportunity to discuss the level of accessions to international conventions in the area of procedures and facilitation, the steps to accede to those conventions and the mechanisms to follow-up implementation.
43. In a break-out session, delegates will discuss in more detail the challenges and possible solutions regarding accession to and implementation of the relevant conventions in the area of procedures and facilitation.

XV. PTC Work Programme ----- “B”

- *Progress on PTC Work Programme 2016/2019 and endorsement of PTC Work Programme 2019-2022*

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 PTC will be updated on the progress of implementation of the WP 2016-2019. The PTC will also discuss, with a view to endorsing, the draft WP 2019-2022, which covers the financial years 2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 and is aligned with the new WCO Strategic Plan endorsed by the Council in June 2019.

DAY IV **Thursday 31 October 2019**

XVI. E-Commerce ----- “B”

- a. *E-Commerce Package – outstanding work items*

46. The June 2019 Policy Commission and Council had endorsed the E-Commerce package, with the exception of three documents (i.e., Reference Data Set for E-Commerce, Revenue Collection Approaches, and E-Commerce Stakeholders : Roles and Responsibilities) and extended the mandate of the Working Group on E-Commerce (WGEC), in a virtual manner, until June 2020. Based on the intersessional work conducted virtually on the outstanding documents, the PTC will carry out further work and provide guidance, as appropriate.

b. Framework of Standards – update/maintenance mechanism

Document: PC0573

47. At its March 2019 sessions, the PTC had recognized the need to define a mechanism for maintaining the Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce and associated documents as certain aspects might need to be refined, reviewed and amended in the future, given that E-Commerce is a dynamically evolving environment. To that end, the PTC had invited Members to submit proposals with regard to the maintenance process to the Secretariat by 1 September 2019 for further discussion at the Autumn PTC sessions. Based on Members' suggestions, the PTC will discuss and define a maintenance mechanism.

c. Compendium of E-Commerce case studies

- *Presentation by EU*

Document: PC0574

48. Based on the case study templates endorsed by the June 2019 Policy Commission and Council, Members' case studies on ecommerce related implementation experiences and initiatives are being collected. The PTC will discuss the potential development of a compendium of case studies, encourage Members and stakeholders to share their experiences in the given templates, and provide necessary guidance. This compendium will aid in future awareness raising for Members.

d. Collaboration with other international organizations

- *WTO*
- *Other International Organizations*

49. Recognizing the significance of growing e-commerce, several international organizations are following different streams of work in the e-commerce area. The PTC will have an opportunity to hear and discuss respective perspectives of some of these international organizations, provide guidance on how to promote the WCO's work, especially in relation to Customs and trade facilitation aspects of cross-border ecommerce that should be taken into account in related discussions at various fora, and suggest ways to collaborating with, and supporting, other Organization's work and leveraging synergies in the pursuit of meeting common global objectives.

e. Opioids in international mail

Document: PC0575

50. There are growing concerns with regard to the movement of opioids in international mail. The PTC will take stock of the emerging developments, the ongoing collaborative work with the UPU to curb opioids in international mail including the development of strategies, related tools and mechanisms, and the organization of capacity building activities to enhance Customs and postal operators' capacities for countering transportation of opioids through posts. Going forward, the PTC will discuss this issue from a wider perspective and provide guidance on future work.

XVII. Any other business----- "B"

a) Proposals for agenda items for the next PTC meeting

b) Upcoming events

51. As is the current practice in every meeting, the PTC will be provided with an opportunity to suggest agenda items for the next PTC meeting. Ideally, the delegates will put forward non paper(s) to support their proposal(s).

52. Under the same item, the Secretariat will also 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.
