



Brussels, 16 September 2019.

COORDINATED BORDER MANAGEMENT (CBM)

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

(Item II.a on the Agenda)

I. Background

1. Coordinated border management (CBM) is recognized by the international Customs community as a potential solution for the challenges that the 21st century presents especially with respect to efficient and effective border management. Its importance resulted in the concept being included in the WCO strategic document “Customs in the 21st Century” where it is listed as one of the 10 key building blocks for managing borders in today’s environment.
2. Recently the WCO updated its CBM Compendium to provide guidance to Customs Administrations in order for them to strengthen and build strong foundations in cooperating with other border agencies operating at the border. The Compendium, amongst other, acknowledged the importance for the WCO to cooperate with other international entities whose respective policies have implications towards improving border efficiency.
3. Similarly, the World Trade Organization (WTO) acknowledges the importance of CBM under the name of Boarder Agency Cooperation for trade facilitation and has incorporated this concept into the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which entered into force on 22 February 2017.
4. Additionally, CBM is listed among the nine strategic priorities of the WCO for 2019-2022 in the new WCO Strategic Plan. Developing and updating instruments and programmes on CBM and Single Window that help Customs administrations develop initiatives for better coordination with other border agencies to efficiently manage trade flows and secure proper revenue collection is among the priorities of Customs for the next years.

5. In line with the Theme of the Year for 2019, “SMART borders for seamless trade, travel and transport”, the WCO intends to put more significant focus on improving border management, especially through reinforcing cooperation with other border agencies. To this end, the WCO is committed to continuing to actively promote the Single Window and CBM Compendiums as relevant tools for guiding Customs in the various steps needed to lead these processes at national and regional levels. Hence, the WCO will also support the use and implementation of various IT tools for digital collaboration between Customs and other government agencies, answering to the need to adapt to the global development of digital economy, as highlighted in the 2019 Environmental Scan. The WCO will continue to provide Members with Capacity Building assistance for promoting and supporting further wide use of CBM.
6. A coordinated approach by border control agencies lays at the heart of the CBM concept, in the context of seeking greater efficiencies in managing trade and travel flows, while maintaining a balance with security requirements. The term gives prominence to the general principle of coordination of policies, programmes and delivery among cross-border regulatory agencies rather than favoring any single solution.
7. The provisions relating to Coordinated Border Management (CBM) were included in the 2012 edition of the SAFE Framework of Standards (SAFE FoS). Recognizing the growing importance of cooperation between Customs and other government agencies involved in international trade supply chain security, CBM was elevated to a Pillar 3: Customs-to-Other Government Agencies and Inter-Government Agencies Cooperation in the 2015 edition of the SAFE FoS.
8. It is important to note that the main objective of Pillar 3 is to foster closer cooperation between and among Customs and other government agencies to ensure that the government response to the challenges of supply chain security is both efficient and effective, by avoiding duplication of requirements and inspections, streamlining processes, and ultimately working toward global standards that secure the movements of goods in a manner that facilitates trade. It stipulates Standards for cooperation at three levels - cooperation within the government; cooperation between and among governments; and multinational cooperation.
9. Even though the cooperation across various agencies is essential at the national level, given the nature of the global supply chain, such effective cooperation must also be promoted bilaterally and multilaterally between and among organizations representing different sectors and regulatory areas in order to foster and establish international harmonization and reduce burden on both trade and governments. For this purpose, there are two specific standards on establishing and maintaining cooperation between/among international organizations under Pillar 3 of the SAFE FoS.
10. As the CBM continues to be a key priority for the WCO and its Members, the WCO has in the last period intensified cooperation with a number of international standard-setting organizations that are of relevance to Customs and border management; such as, but not limited to, the FAO/WHO Joint Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF).

11. The Codex, the IPPC and the OIE are three international standard setting organizations recognized by the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the "SPS Agreement"). They are sometimes known as SPS's "three sisters". The WCO has already signed cooperation agreements with the OIE and the IPPC in 2008 (revised in 2015) and 2018, respectively. Likewise, the WCO has been working with Codex in matters of common interest. The WCO and IPPC Secretariats have agreed on a joint work plan for three years, July 2019 – June 2022, which addresses major activities for bilateral cooperation between the Secretariats and explores further areas of joint work such as Electronic data Exchange (ePhyto), eCommerce, Sea Containers and Single Window, between the two Secretariats. The WCO has been collaborating with the OIE mainly in regional activities in support of temporary international movements of competition horses and also on veterinary products.
12. Since the WCO and the IMO signed a MOU to strengthen existing co-operation between two organizations within the field of their competence in July 2002, two organizations have been working together on a range of areas such as data sharing, technology, security and facilitation including the maintenance of the IMO Compendium on Facilitation and Electronic Business, in a spirit of further cooperation to secure supply chain and facilitate trade.
13. Based on the MoU signed between the WCO and the IOM in May 2018, the WCO and the IOM have been cooperating on a number of issues of mutual interest.
14. The WCO has been actively engaged in discussions with railway related international organizations and as the results, the WCO signed Memoranda of Understanding with the OTIF and the Organisation for Co-operation between Railways (OSJD), signed in July 2017 and March 2018 respectively to enhance cooperation between Customs administrations and the railways sector. Both organizations understand the need for heightened cooperation in the light of the ever-increasing share of transcontinental transit via railways.
15. A panel of speakers coming from a number of international standard setting 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.

II. Action Required

16. Following the panel discussion, the PTC is invited to;
- share experiences from Member administrations and Observer organizations,
 - discuss the latest challenges and opportunities concerning cooperation between Customs and other border agencies,
 - provide guidance on how the cooperation between WCO and international organizations can best support Customs administrations and other border agencies at national/regional level, and
 - provide any further suggestions or recommendations on the way forward.