



PERMANENT TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE

PC0571Ea

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225th/226th Sessions

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28 – 31 October 2019

Brussels, 10 October 2019.

PTC WORK PROGRAMME

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

(Item XV on the Agenda)

I. Background

1. The PTC works in line with a three-year Work Programme (WP) which is directly linked to the WCO Strategic Plan and supports implementation of its goals and objectives. It is intended to be regularly updated to reflect the decisions taken by the Committee and by the governing bodies of the WCO and to reflect the progress made. Its objective is also to provide more focus and to serve as a monitoring tool for the Committee.
2. At its Sessions in October 2016, the PTC endorsed the Draft PTC Work Programme 2016-2019, subject to changes put forward by the PTC. The final improved version was submitted to and endorsed by the Council in July 2017.
3. At its Sessions in April 2018, the PTC reviewed the progress made and updated the WP 2016-2019 to reflect inter-sessional developments, as well as to include the new topics discussed by the PTC, such as Customs-Railways cooperation and Special Customs Zones / Free Zones. In addition, some of the deadlines were amended to include more feasible targets. As suggested by a Member, Performance Measurement was included as a new topic with a view to bringing together a number of tasks such as the Customs revenue benchmarking database and the engagement regarding the World Bank's "Doing Business", but also to include performance measurement and monitoring more broadly.

II. Progress on the PTC Work Programme 2016-2019

4. The already completed WP 2016-2019 is in line with the previous WCO Strategic Plan focusing on implementing Strategic goal 1 (promote the security and facilitation of international trade, including simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures = Economic Competitiveness Package) and Strategic goal 5 (Promote Digital Customs to support, in particular, Coordinated Border Management and Information exchange between all stakeholders).

5. The WP 2016-2019 is now being submitted to the PTC to discuss the progress made in the period after the last review (April 2018), which has been provided under "Progress" in track changes in the table in Annex I to this document.
6. Timelines have been met for most of the performance indicators. However, there are those which have been spilt over into the new WP.

III. PTC Work Programme 2019-2022

7. With the expiry of the WP 2016-2019, the PTC is now invited to agree on its priority topics and tasks for the three-year period ahead by endorsing the draft WP 2019-2022 (Annex II to this document). The latter is largely based on the previous WP, with the view of continuing the comprehensive work of the PTC already under way.
8. The new WP is in line with the new WCO Strategic Plan 2019-2022 and its Implementation Plan for the Financial Year (FY) 2019-2020, both approved by the Policy Commission and Council in June 2019.
9. The new approach to defining the WCO Strategic Plan 2019-2022 represents an important shift. It is the overarching structure for the strategic planning of the WCO for next three years and represents the strategic approach of the Organization as a whole, supported by the operational activities undertaken by each of the Directorates and Units. It defines the following elements:
 - Strategic Goal (SG): Provide leadership, guidance and support to Customs administrations;
 - Strategic Objectives (SOs): SO1 – Facilitation; SO2 – Revenue collection; SO3 – Protection of Society;
 - Strategic Processes (SPs): SP1 – Economic Competitiveness Package; SP2 – Revenue Package; SP3 – Compliance and Enforcement Package; SP4 – Organizational Development Package; SP5 – Join Operations and exchange of information; SP6 – Sharing of knowledge and best practices; SP7 – Technical assistance, training and tools for implementation of international standards; SP8 – Technical assistance, training and tools on people management;
 - Learning and Development to support WCO Processes (LDs): LD1 – Research and Analysis; LD2 – Use of technology and data; LD3 – Raise profile of WCO and promote Customs role; and
 - Organizational Capacity (ORGs): ORG1 – Specialized and focused work allocation; ORG2 – Use of budget resources and accountability.
10. The Strategic Plan also contains the strategic priorities and emerging trends for the current financial year:
 - Coordinated Border Management (CBM);
 - Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC);
 - E-Commerce;
 - Safety and Security;
 - Harmonized System (HS);
 - Capacity Building Strategy;
 - Performance Measurement (PM);
 - Integrity;
 - Digital Customs and Data Analytics.

11. The Strategic Plan is complemented by the already mentioned yearly implementation plans. The Implementation Plan 2019-2020 is the first of the three-year period and will be updated annually. It contains more information on the various key performance indicators (KPIs) and the financial implications of the Strategic Plan's implementation. Both the new Strategic Plan and the Implementation Plan for the current financial year are available on the WCO web site at the following link: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/about-us/what-is-the-wco/strategic-plan.aspx>.
12. In reviewing the new Strategic Plan, it is evident that the PTC plays a critical role in achieving WCO's key strategic goal – to provide leadership, guidance and support to Customs administrations. More specifically, the PTC focuses on Facilitation, as its key Strategic Objective (SO1) and on the following Strategic Processes: ECP (SP1), Sharing knowledge and best practices (SP6) and to Technical Assistance, Training and Tools for implementation of international standards (SP7). The PTC also has a role to play in the Learning and Development to support WCO processes: Research and analysis (LD1) and Use of technology and data (LD2).
13. Moreover, out of the nine strategic priorities and emerging trends for the current financial year, the PTC is dealing, to a great extent or partly with six of them: CBM, RKC, E-Commerce, Safety & Security, PM and Digital Customs & Data Analytics.
14. However, alignment with the new Strategic Plan has not impacted the structure of the PTC WP. An additional column and references to the particular elements of the Strategic/Implementation Plan have been included to provide clear links between the PTC's tasks and the objectives of the organization.

IV. Actions required from the PTC

15. The PTC is invited to:
 - examine the draft PTC Work Programme 2019-2022, provide suggestions for improvements and, if appropriate, endorse it; and
 - review and take note of the progress made on the implementation of the PTC Work Programme 2016-2019, as well as put forward any guidance or recommendations.
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