

WCO delegation attends 18th OSCE Economic and Environment Forum

Prague, 24 – 26 May 2010

A WCO delegation headed by Mr. Sergio Mujica, Deputy Secretary General of the WCO took an active part in the 18th OSCE Economic and Environment Forum, held in Prague from May 24 to 26, 2010. The theme of this year's forum was "Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region". This year's forum was attended by well over 300 participants from member states, international organizations, private sector associations and the academic sector.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is an intergovernmental organization based in Vienna, Austria. Its membership is composed of 56 member states from North America through Central Asia and includes the vast majority of European countries. Its focus is on establishing links and collaboration between members as a way to strengthen regional security and development.

During the forum's opening session, Mr. Mujica gave a keynote address during which he reminded participants of the mandate of the WCO, and its role in the area of integrity and supply chain security. Furthermore, Mr. Mujica talked about a number of key WCO instruments and recommendations including the Revised Kyoto Convention and the SAFE Framework. He also presented a few of the building blocks for Customs in the 21st century, highlighting the numerous possible areas of collaboration and common interest between the WCO and the OSCE.

Mr. Daniel Perrier, WCO Capacity Building Directorate, also took part in a panel discussion on the promotion of integrity and good governance at border crossings. This was an opportunity for the WCO to highlight its work in the area of integrity development, as well as the assistance available to Customs administrations through the Columbus Programme and other capacity building initiatives.

Mr. Perrier reminded participants of the need for Customs administrations to take the lead in promoting integrity at the border through close collaboration with other border agencies and private sector stakeholders. Elements of the [Revised Arusha Declaration](#) concerning good governance and integrity in Customs were also presented and emphasis was placed on the need for firm senior management leadership and commitment to support integrity development. Other success factors were presented, such as the need to automate Customs processes, the importance of effective human resources management and development, as well as the value for continuous improvement through the implementation of international standards and best practices.

The WCO and the OSCE have agreed to strengthen their collaboration in a number of areas, including the organization of an upcoming sub-regional conference and workshop on the promotion of integrity that will be held in Kazakhstan in July 2010.

Further information on this OSCE Forum and all related documents can be found at:

http://www.osce.org/conferences/18_eef_part2.html