

WCO Regional Seminar on the Protection of IPR
WCO Regional Training Centre in Budapest, 3-5 May, 2010



The event organised in the WCO Regional Training Centre in Budapest, attended by representatives of 14 countries from the Europe Region, 2 from the WCO, one from the Universal Postal Union, and 16 from Hungary was hosted by the Hungarian Customs and Finance Guard (HC&FG). Commissioner of the HC&FG, Lt. Gen. János NAGY Dr. opened the seminar welcoming the delegates and giving them brief information about the structure, tasks, recent developments and future challenges of Hungarian customs.

On behalf of the WCO Mr. Christophe Zimmermann and Mr. Massimiliano Caruso facilitated the event giving an overview on the WCO's IPR programme, priorities, and actions with regard to customs – business partnership and the training programme of IPR, the peculiarities of the TRIPS agreement and the WCO guidelines in this field as well as the WCO Capacity Building Strategy. In the line of international organizations representative of the UPU, Mr. Olivier Tsalpatouros showed the policy efforts of the postal sector against IPR infringements, presenting statistics about the worldwide volume of postal mails and packages, honestly revealing the difficulties and barriers of the prevailing legal framework.

During the coming days participants of the seminar gave presentations (RU, TR, FR, IT, NO, GE, HU) about their own efforts in fighting against IPR-related crimes and contraventions, and information was given by Hungary about a Benchmarking project under the Customs 2013 Programme on the protection of IPR in the traffic of small consignments.

In the light of the motto chosen by the WCO for 2010 “*Customs and business: improving performance through partnership*” representatives of the private sector were also invited to the Seminar, managers of the Hungarian Copyright Alliance and one of the most relevant attorney offices dealing with IPR issues presented their views in relation to legal issues and anti-piracy efforts.

The seminar gave place for a site visit to the Postal Branch of the Customs and Finance Guard Office No. 17. of Budapest, where the work performed by customs to protect IPR was shown in practice.

As a result of the seminar recommendations were accepted by the participants about – among others - the harmonized approach in Europe, promotion and use of the WCO IPR tools, reinforcement of bilateral and multilateral agreements, exchange of IPR experts, or the preparation of a coordinated operation/exercise on IPR.