



### **Columbus Programme support mission in Mauritania**

Upon the request of the Customs Administration of Mauritania, a mission in support of the overhaul of the modernization plan was carried out from 31 May to 4 June 2010 by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) for the West and Central Africa region.

The mission enjoyed the support of experts from Morocco and Switzerland as well as financial backing from the Eurodouanes Fund and the Netherlands Customs Co-operation Fund.

The WCO was received in Nouakchott by Mr. Dah Ould Hamady Mamy, Director General of Mauritanian Customs, and a senior management team from the Directorate General. The discussions highlighted the Customs Administration's development priorities against the backdrop of the government's trade and supply chain security priorities.

The modernization projects team, led by the Director of the Reform and Modernization Programme and bringing together the Directorate General's Heads of Service, focused intensively on the process to modernize Mauritanian Customs. The WCO experts guided participants through the discussions on the approach to organizational change with the aim of meeting current challenges. The mission also identified recommendations for improving the initial reform plan.

Productive discussions led to the definition of priority development areas for the Customs Administration and the design of a new and relevant strategic reform plan stemming from the WCO diagnostic recommendations. The development activities contained in the reform plan will be translated into tangible modernization projects, to be taken on and supervised by the Customs Administration.

The WCO welcomed the expected progress and reiterated its readiness to assist Mauritania with its Customs modernization strategy.