



WCO Supports Uruguay Customs' Modernization Project

28 June – 02 July

In response to a request from Mr. Enrique Canon, National Director of Uruguay Customs, the WCO dispatched two Customs modernization experts to assist the administration as it prepares for a broad reform. Uruguay Customs has recently re-launched its modernization project in an effort to meet the expectations of the government and trade sector.

The mission, conducted from June 28 to July 2, 2010, was funded by the Eurocustoms Fund and focused on providing strategic advice to improve the planning and management of the modernization project currently underway. As a result of consultations with senior Customs officials, consultants, and trade representatives, the WCO team presented a series of recommendations to ensure the successful implementation of the project. A number of strategic priorities were also recommended for implementation.

The reform project will largely be funded by the Government of Uruguay and will benefit from financial support from the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank. The funding is a clear signal that Customs reform and modernization is a priority and that Mr. Canon, recently-appointed to his post, is committed to achieving concrete results and sustainable development for his organization.

The mission was also able to identify a number of areas of expertise for which the WCO can provide support to Uruguay Customs. Discussions are underway to agree on specific assistance in the areas of management development, evaluation and monitoring, E-Learning, and human resources development.

The WCO congratulates the Uruguayan Customs administration for this commitment to pursue reforms and reiterates its full support to the initiative.