

**BRUSSELS DECLARATION**

**(June 2003)**

**DECLARATION**  
**OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL** <sup>(\*)</sup>  
**ON THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN DRUGS**

**(Brussels Declaration)**

On the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the Customs Co-operation Council, at its 101<sup>st</sup>/102<sup>nd</sup> Council Sessions :

**Recognizing** that the illicit traffic in drugs and precursors constitutes a grave and growing threat to public health and to the prosperity of nations,

**Aware** of the fact that organized crime and international terrorism, which have become global problems threatening the security of the world economy, are to a large extent financed by drug smuggling and drug trafficking, and that the extension of such trafficking has damaging repercussions for licit trade,

**Recognizing** that Customs administrations are responsible for controlling the cross-border movements of goods, means of transport and persons, and that it is their role to protect the national territory and ensure the security of their populations,

**Emphasizing** the need to establish co-operation between Customs administrations to combat this illicit trafficking at the international and regional levels, while at the same time ensuring the smooth operation of the licit economy and protecting legitimate economic interests,

**Emphasizing** also the need for increased co-operation with the competent international organizations, including in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Interpol,

**Declares** its reaffirmed commitment to participate actively in the fight against the illicit international traffic in drugs.

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<sup>(\*)</sup> Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is the official name of the World Customs Organization (WCO).