



Interview of Mr. Michel Danet, Secretary General of the World Customs Organization

When you have a million Customs officials throughout the world, all of whom require training to achieve a higher level of professionalism and expertise, you have to provide them with instructional tools enabling them to progress and become more effective.

Distance training corresponds to the all-encompassing approach to training we wanted to launch throughout the world. This will enable Customs administrations and officials to perform their missions to the best of their abilities and will provide them with the necessary powers and skills to serve the interests of the economy, society and citizens.

We began with distance training programmes on established Customs topics : Valuation, Classification, Integrity, Harmonized System and Risk Analysis. We are going to develop these programmes in the future and I think that in a year's time, or 18 months at the most, all Customs domains will be covered by distance training programmes. Once staff demonstrating a willingness to further their knowledge have completed this training, they can either train as specialists or receive additional training which will enable them to meet our societies' expectations.

Brussels, 25 November 2005