Opening of the WCO's 54th Fellowship Programme

The 54th French-speaking Fellowship Programme was launched in Brussels on Monday 7 February 2011.

This Programme forms part of the work to develop the management capacities of Member administrations in support of Phase II of the Columbus Programme. It is designed to provide extremely promising young managers from Member administrations with training in supervisory and management techniques, so as to help them carry out reform and modernization within their respective administrations in a dynamic and sustainable manner.

This latest Programme brings together 14 participants who were welcomed by Mr. Kieck, Director, Capacity Building Directorate and Ms. Heike Barczyk, Deputy Director, Capacity Building Directorate. This introduction served as a prelude to a series of conferences given by WCO experts, as well as to the seven-day Management Course, facilitated by experts from the French and the Canadian administrations. The fellows also benefited from a round-table discussion with the Secretary General of the WCO, Mr. Mikuriya, during their first day at the Secretariat.

The participants will remain at WCO Headquarters until 4 March 2011 in order to prepare an in-depth study on a subject of their choice, under the supervision of a Secretariat tutor, and to make recommendations to their respective administrations for possible subsequent implementation.

Lastly the participants will spend a fortnight in one of the Programme's partner Administrations (Belgium, France, Switzerland or Japan) to round off their study trip.

The French-speaking Fellowship Programme is funded by the Customs Administrations of Japan, France and Switzerland and by the CCF Netherlands fund for West and Central Africa.

List of countries participating in the 54th Fellowship Programme:

- Algeria
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Chad
- Côte d’Ivoire
- Egypt
- Gabon
- Haiti
- Maurice
- Moldova
- Dem. Rep. of the Congo
- Serbia
- Togo