



**WCO
Photo
Competition
2015**

Afghanistan

Training session at the National Customs Academy

A total of 1000 Afghan Customs officers have passed through the doors of the Afghan National Customs Academy since its establishment in 2009. The Academy offers some 20 basic courses, as well as specialized and advanced training, in various Customs fields without having to rely on external operational support from donors, with the objective of ensuring that national standards and good practices are implemented across the country.



Angola

Together means stronger!

Representatives of the Angolan and Namibian enforcement services work together at the Santa Clara border as they finalize arrangements for a joint operation. Joint actions have proven to be efficient in terms of the seizure of illicit goods, the collection of revenue, and ultimately the protection of citizens. Working together is the best way for both countries to fulfil their respective objectives.



Austria

Always at the top!

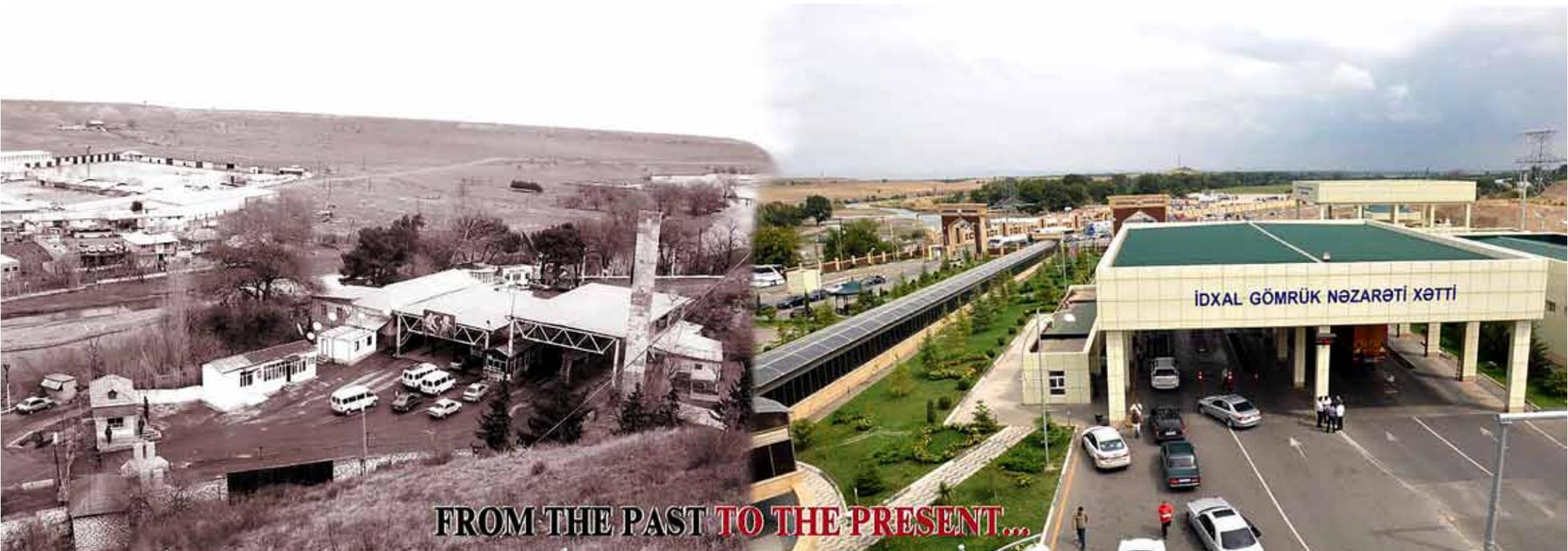
Austria is an Alpine country, creating some unique challenges for Customs as the boundary sometimes runs along mountain ridges. The ski resort of Ischgl in Austria directly borders on the Swiss Duty Free Zone of Samnaun, where goods such as cigarettes, watches and perfumes, are tax free and therefore available at very low prices. Tourists buying these goods can carry them across the border on their skis. Austrian Customs is present at the ski resort, checking on skiers and hikers high up in the mountains. This task requires close cooperation with the management of the ski resort, as well as with local authorities and tourism organizations.



Azerbaijan

From the past to the present

The Azerbaijan-Georgian border crossing point as it was in the past and as it is in the present. The new infrastructure meets modern requirements and is based on international standards.

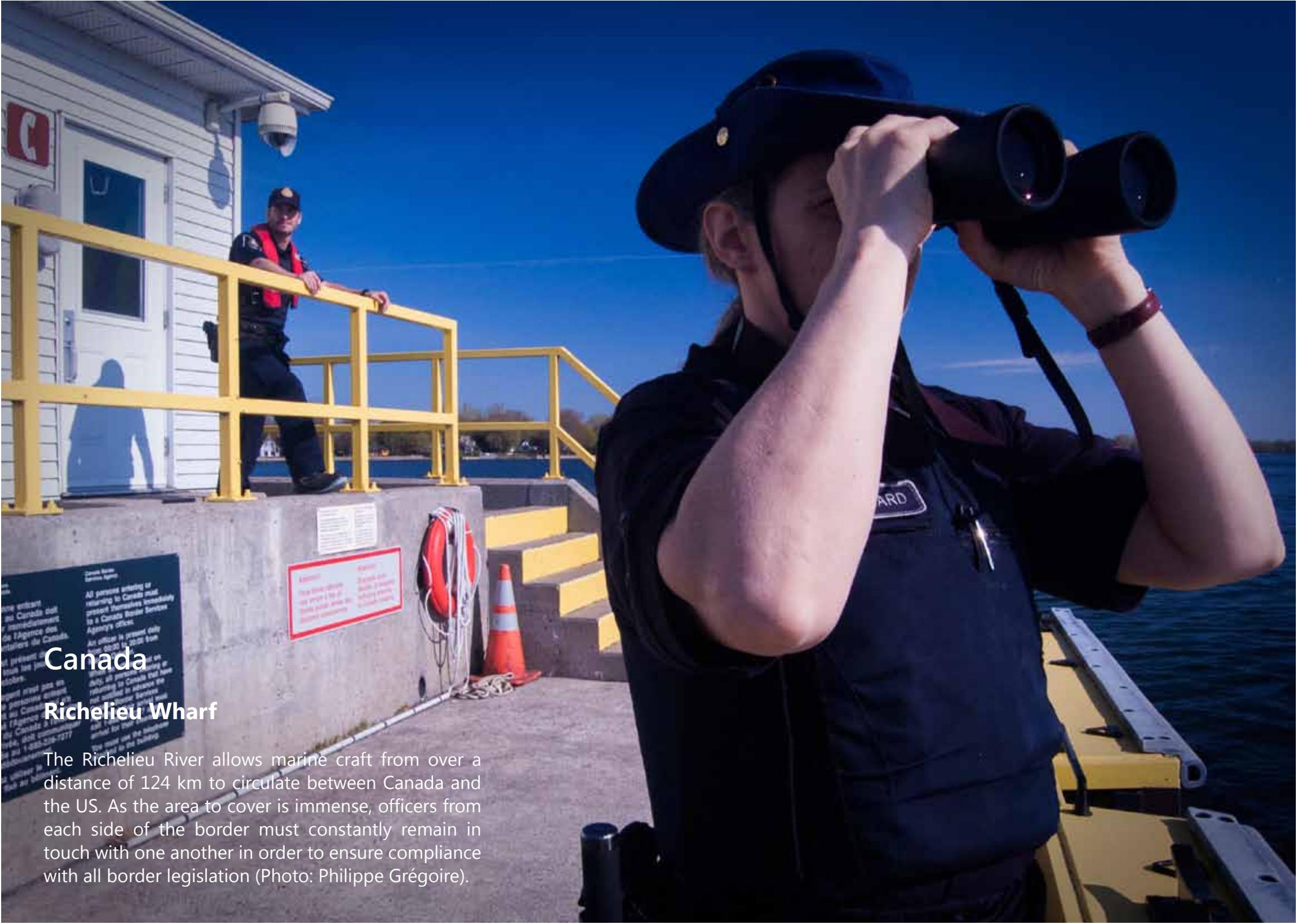


Bolivia

On the trail of undocumented vehicles

Customs cars patrolling near the border with Chile to intercept undocumented vehicles.





Canada Richelieu Wharf

The Richelieu River allows marine craft from over a distance of 124 km to circulate between Canada and the US. As the area to cover is immense, officers from each side of the border must constantly remain in touch with one another in order to ensure compliance with all border legislation (Photo: Philippe Grégoire).

China

Students crossing borders

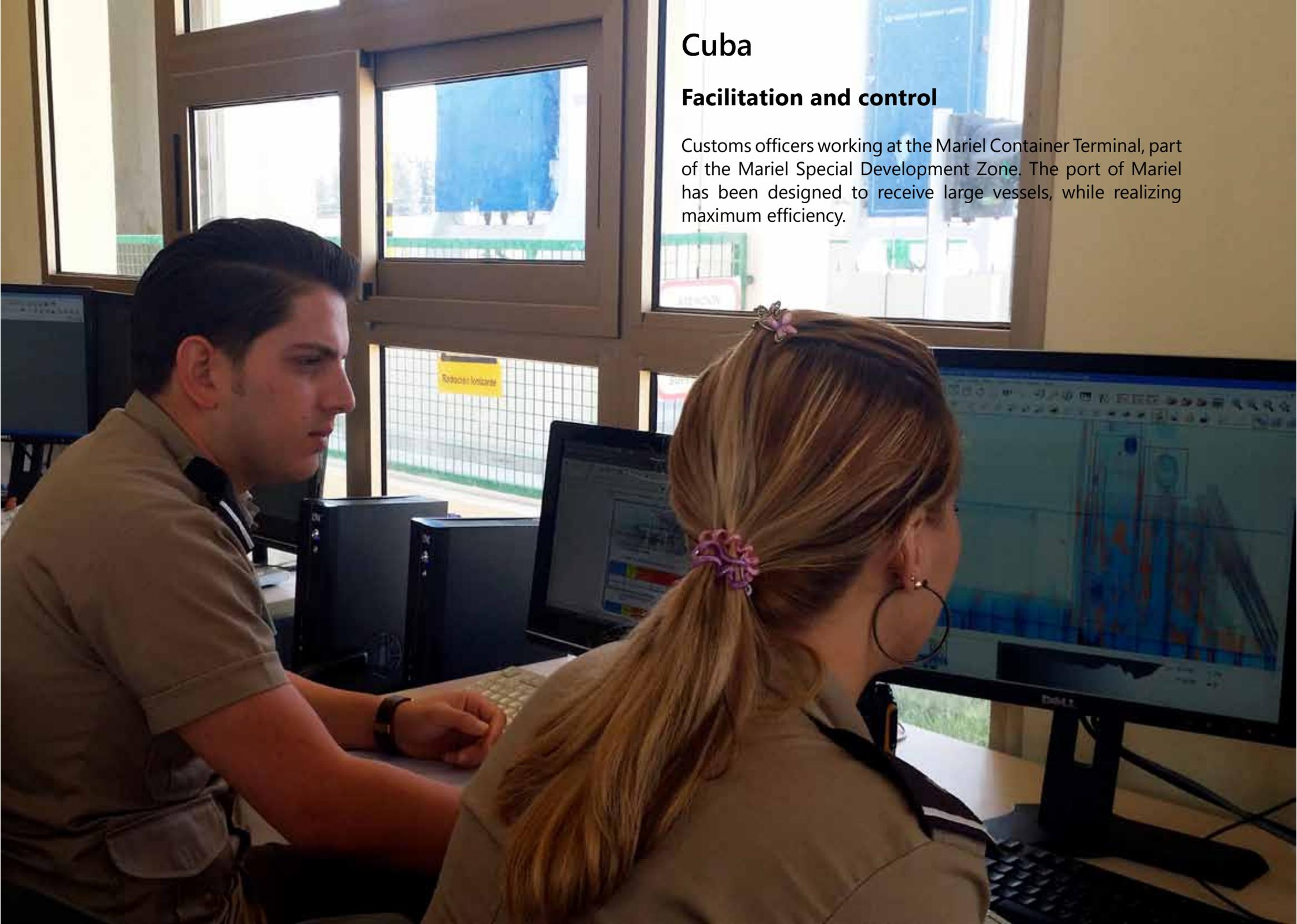
Young students show a Customs officer their identification cards at the Luohu control point in Shenzhen, bordering Hong Kong, China.



Cuba

Facilitation and control

Customs officers working at the Mariel Container Terminal, part of the Mariel Special Development Zone. The port of Mariel has been designed to receive large vessels, while realizing maximum efficiency.

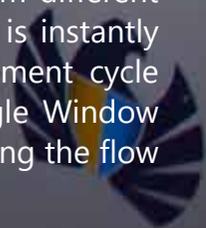




Dubai

Smart border management starts here!

Modern technology provides real-time monitoring of land, sea and air cargo movements. Data collected from different Customs checkpoints and other border agencies is instantly processed and analyzed through a risk management cycle that connects the various stakeholders. This Single Window system creates a secure environment, thereby easing the flow of legitimate trade.





Ecuador

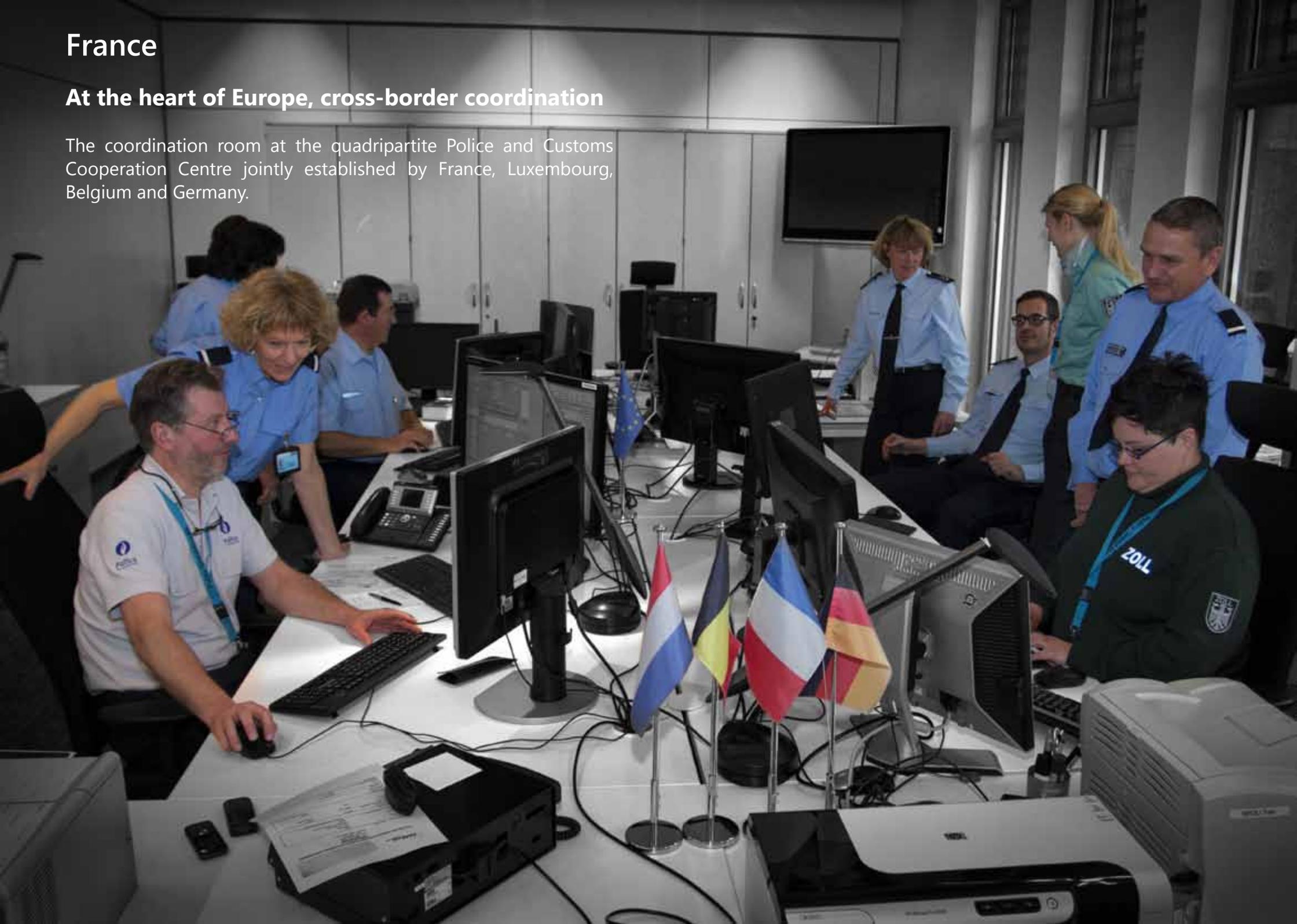
Young officers make their families proud

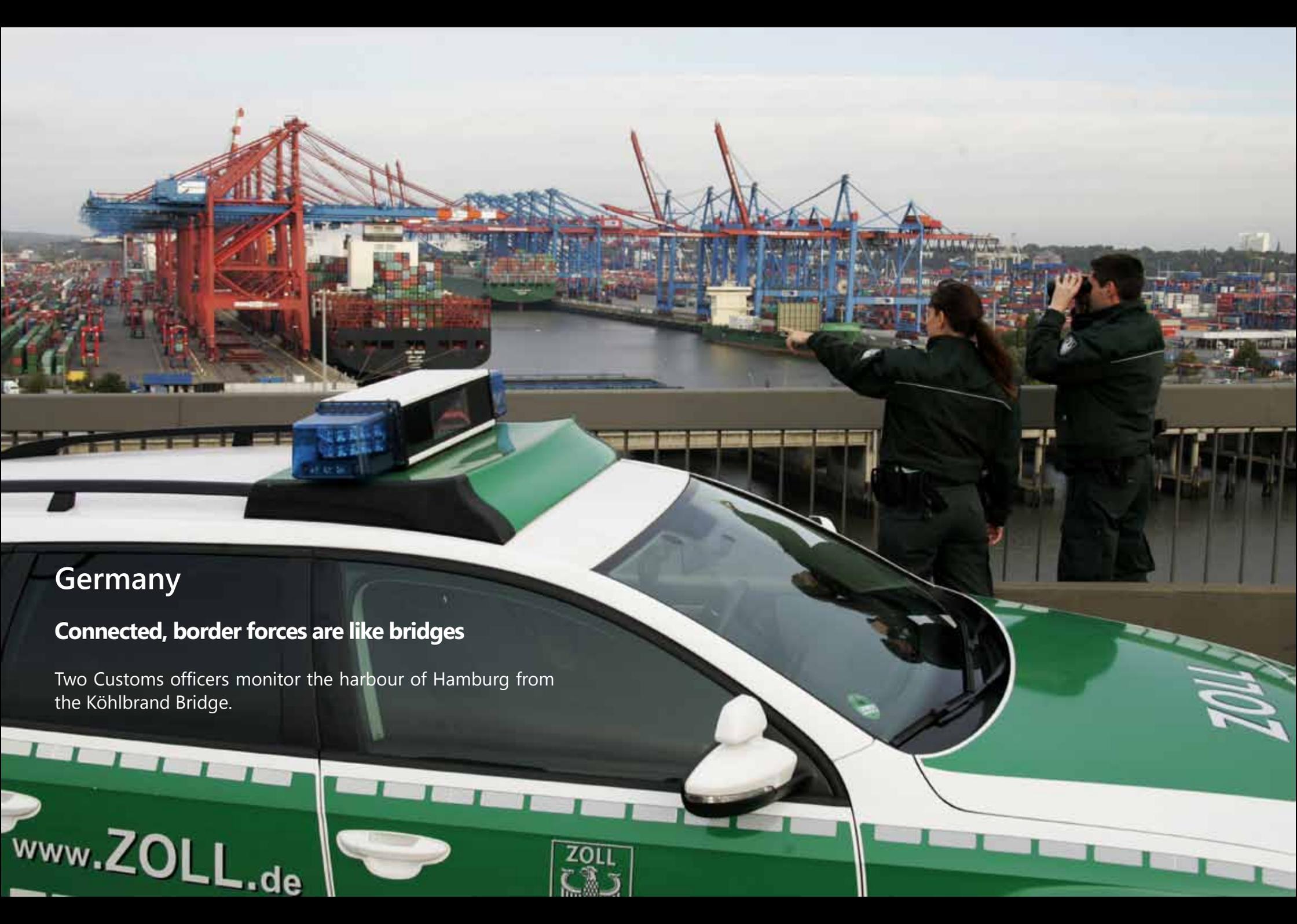
Recently graduated Customs officers parade in front of their families, proud that they have chosen to serve the Ecuadorian State. These young officers will operate all over the country, and in particular guard the borders in the fight against smuggling.

France

At the heart of Europe, cross-border coordination

The coordination room at the quadripartite Police and Customs Cooperation Centre jointly established by France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany.





Germany

Connected, border forces are like bridges

Two Customs officers monitor the harbour of Hamburg from the Köhlbrand Bridge.

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Iceland

Cargo security

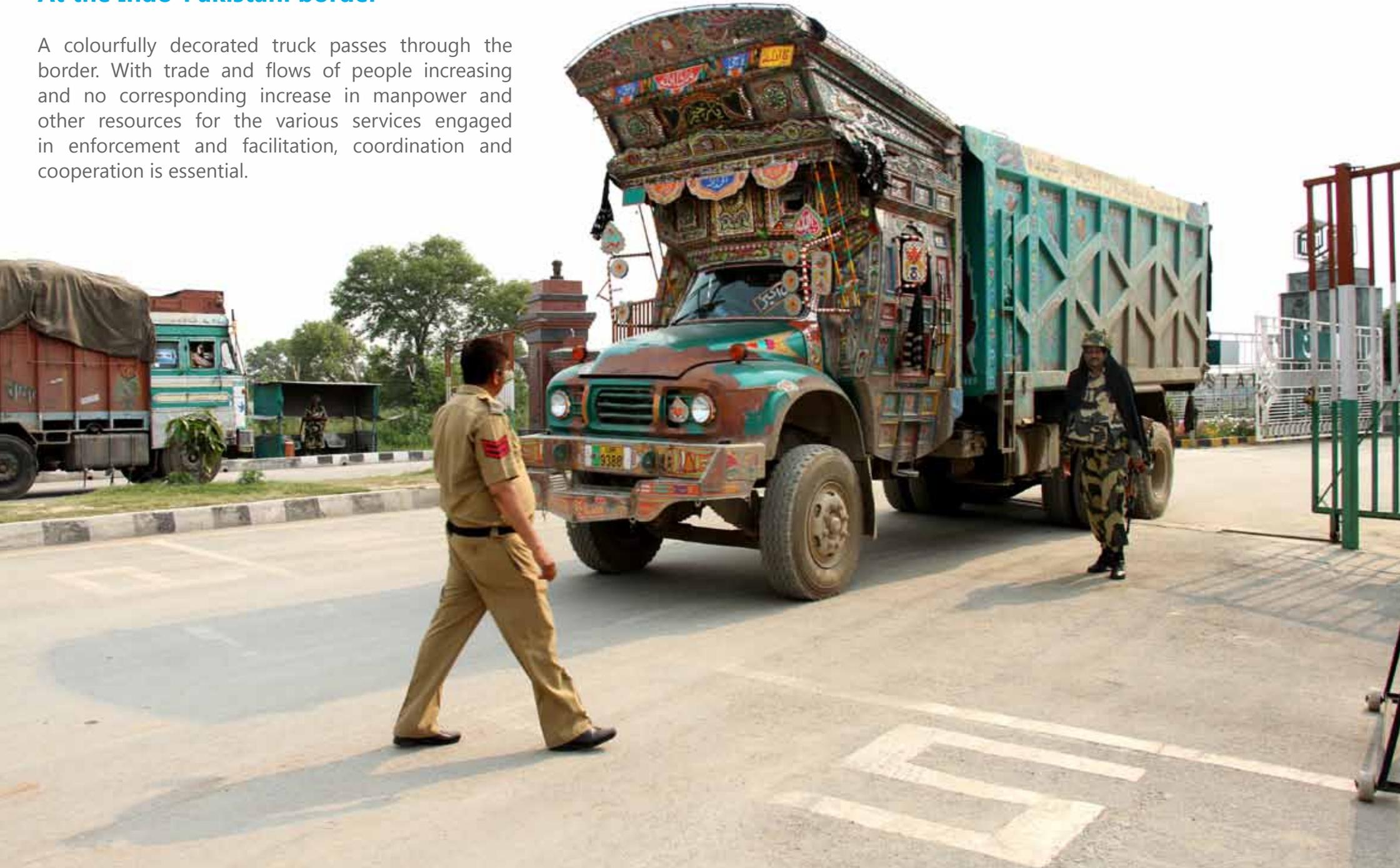
In accordance with cargo security rules, all cargo containers exported from Iceland must be sealed with a special cargo security seal. The Directorate of Customs' Cargo Security Information system collates all relevant data on cargo security seals, enabling the Customs authorities to track sealed goods from the point of loading to the secure storage area and onwards. Excellent cooperation between the Icelandic transport authority and certified cargo handlers ensures optimal system performance. The photo shows a Customs officer on routine security and compliance checks at Reykjavik harbour with snow covered mountains in the background.



India

At the Indo-Pakistani border

A colourfully decorated truck passes through the border. With trade and flows of people increasing and no corresponding increase in manpower and other resources for the various services engaged in enforcement and facilitation, coordination and cooperation is essential.



Ireland

Coordinated border management at Dublin Port

Officers of the Customs Freight Team carry out a security scanning operation in cooperation with Dublin Port Authority representatives.



Japan

Strong will

A Customs officer on patrol duty at Niigata port in freezing cold weather surrounded by snow. The northern parts of Japan have cold, snowy weather in winter. With a strong will to ensure the safety and security of society, a number of Customs officers are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week whatever the weather conditions.





Korea (Rep. of)

Border control agencies showcase their talented master-dog teams

The Korea Customs Service organized a contest for detector dogs, with master-dog teams from Customs, the Police, the Military, the Quarantine Service and the US Armed Forces based in Korea competing against each other in the area of drugs and explosives. This event enabled various border control agencies to showcase the capacity of their detector dogs, to share experiences, and to learn about the latest detection techniques. Clockwise, the photo shows the Police team, the US Armed Forces team, the Customs team and the Quarantine Service team displaying their talents.



Lithuania

Nothing less than cooperative working relationships

Customs officers check a truck transporting watermelons from Ukraine at the Medininkai border post.



Malaysia

Coordination through technology

The Royal Malaysian Customs Department implemented a Gate Control system to encourage voluntary compliance and for fast and efficient clearance.



Mauritius

In lockstep

Under the azure sky of Mauritius, local border management authorities work in lockstep.



Mexico

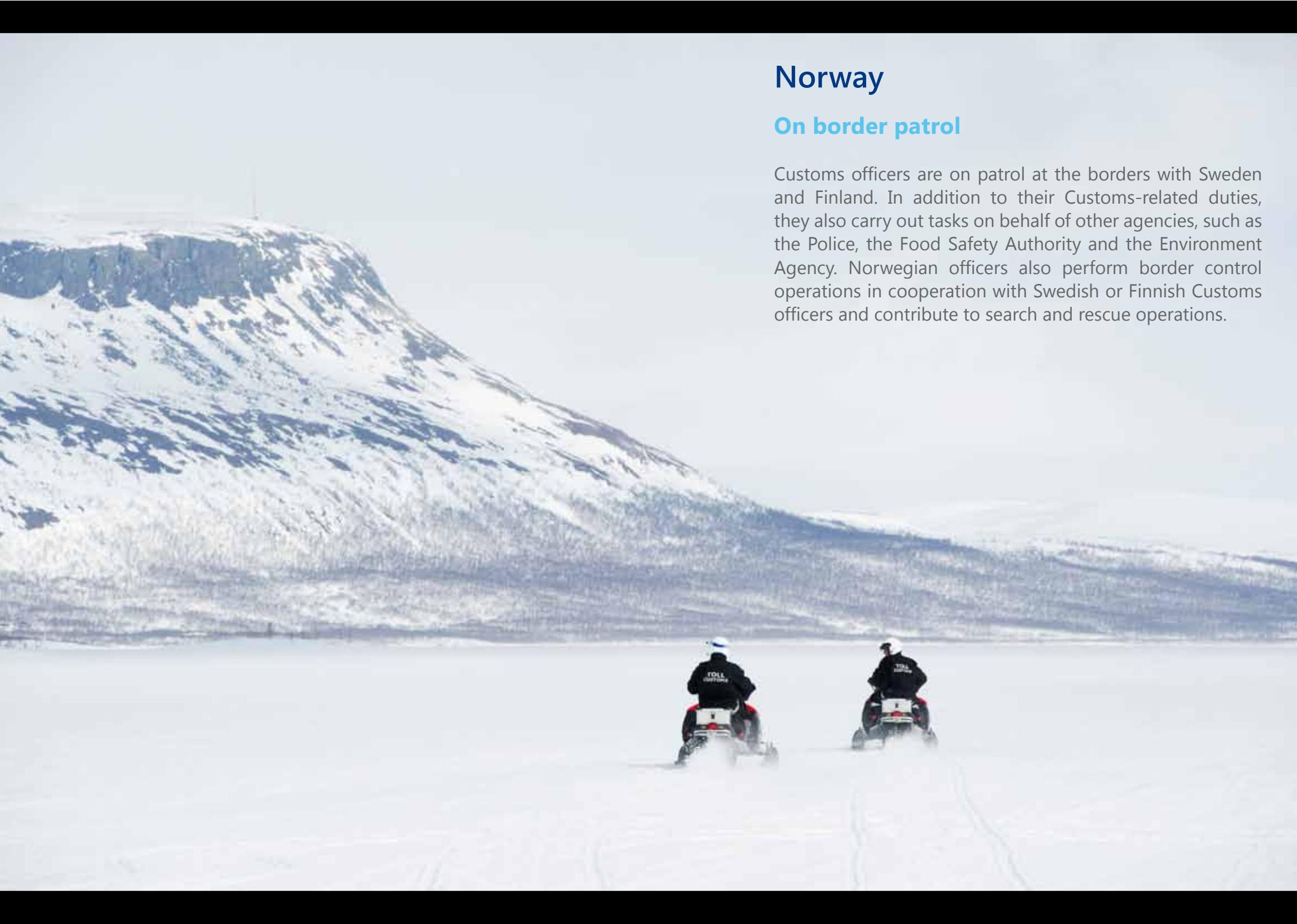
Synergy at the southern border

The Integrated Inspection Point (Punto de Inspección Integral), located at La Trinitaria in Chiapas, is a multi-agency complex that unites, in one single site, several federal agencies to facilitate the movement of goods and passengers entering Mexico from Central America. The facility access is divided to ease inspections by officers from the Tax Administration Service (SAT) undertaken in coordination with different public stakeholders. Displayed in the photo is an example of such coordination between the Ministry of Health and the SAT, where a SAT officer and a representative from a medical mobile unit make contact with a driver upon entry into the country to provide him with sanitary information and to orientate him if necessary, with the objective of preventing the expansion of pandemics in Mexico.

Norway

On border patrol

Customs officers are on patrol at the borders with Sweden and Finland. In addition to their Customs-related duties, they also carry out tasks on behalf of other agencies, such as the Police, the Food Safety Authority and the Environment Agency. Norwegian officers also perform border control operations in cooperation with Swedish or Finnish Customs officers and contribute to search and rescue operations.

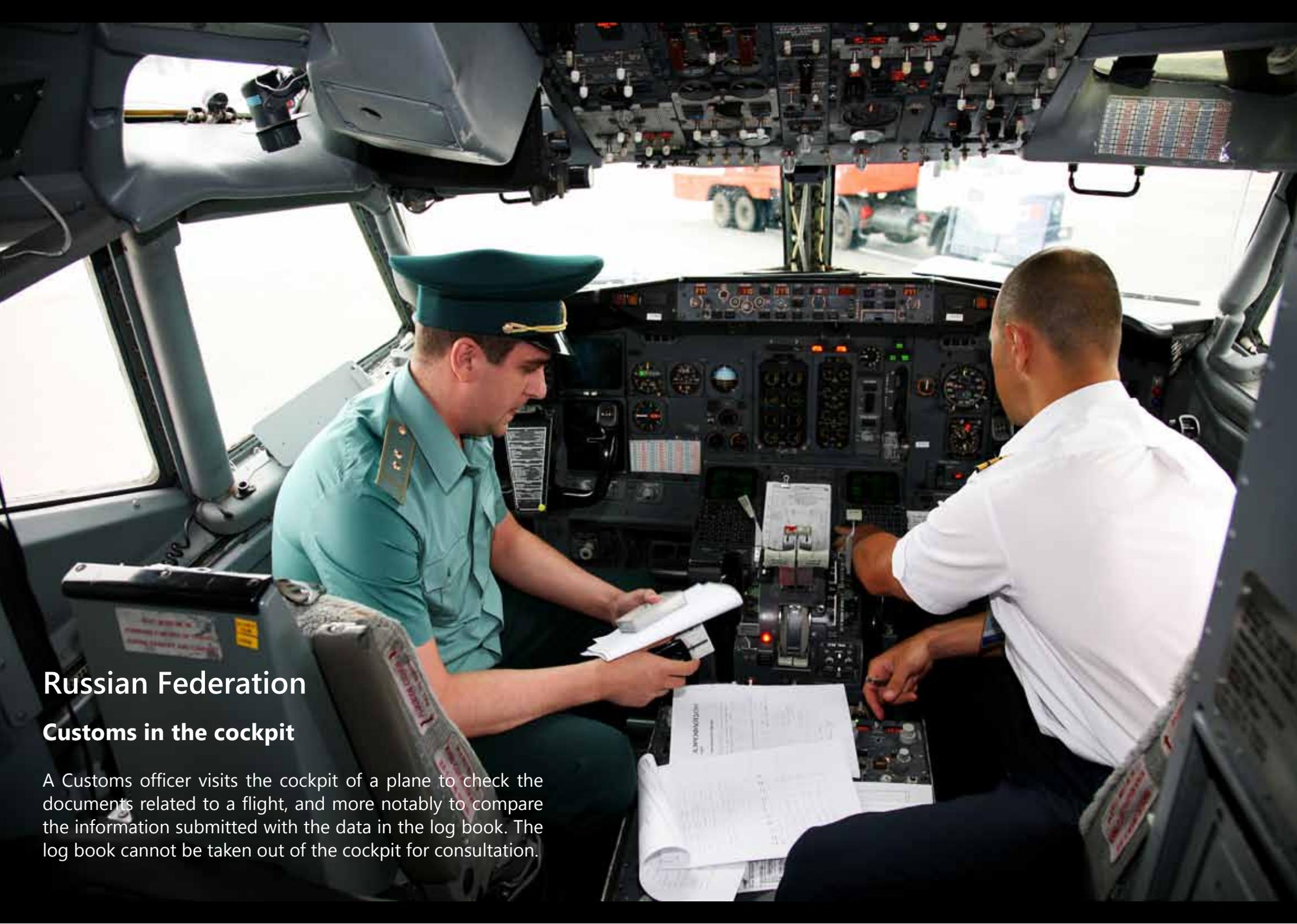


Poland

Customs and Border Guard joint patrol

Officers of the Customs Service and the Border Guard patrolling the river Lyna where it borders on Kaliningrad, an exclave of the Russian Federation.





Russian Federation

Customs in the cockpit

A Customs officer visits the cockpit of a plane to check the documents related to a flight, and more notably to compare the information submitted with the data in the log book. The log book cannot be taken out of the cockpit for consultation.

Serbia

Inland control

A joint operation on controlling goods was carried out by officers from the Customs Administration and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The operation resulted in the detection of 180,000 undeclared cigarettes inside a truck carrying furniture. The truck, inspected using the latest generation mobile scanner, on exiting Belgrade, near the Bubanj Potok toll gate, had France as its final destination.



Spain

Different uniforms, the same desire to work together

At the Police and Customs Cooperation Centre located at the border between Spain and Portugal, between the cities of Castro Marín and Ayamonte, officers from both countries work closely together in managing the border. Seen in the photo are Spanish officers from Customs, the Police and the Civil Guard, together with Portuguese officers from the Foreigners and Borders Service, the Police, the Judiciary Police, the National Republican Guard and the Tax and Customs Authority.



Sudan - Winner of the competition

Border ahead

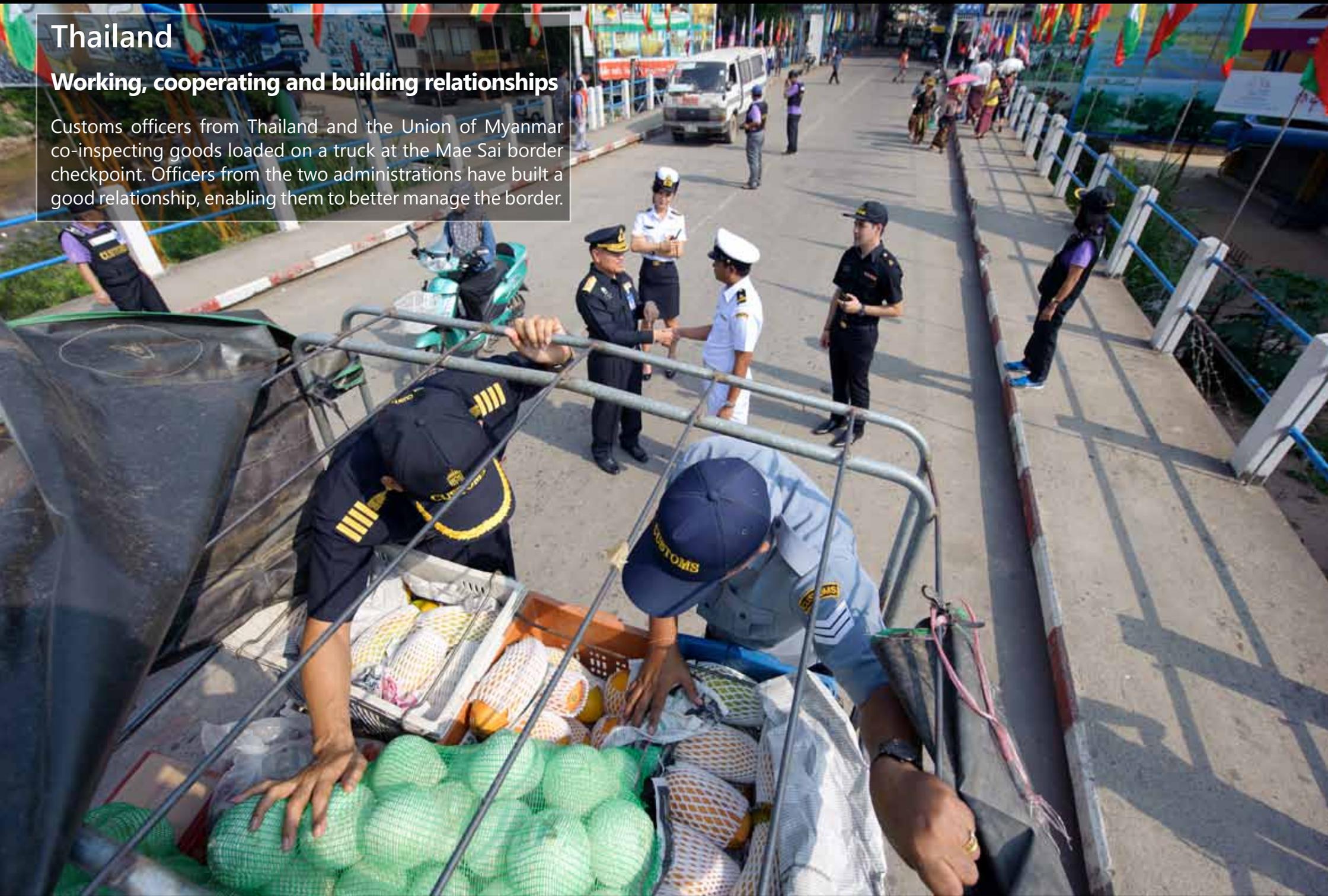
Goods trucks ready to cross the border between Sudan and Egypt. Since April 2015, the Askeit border post is the first and only border crossing point in Sudan benefiting from a Single Window environment, with all relevant authorities gathered under one roof. The volume of trade exchange between Sudan and Egypt through this post amounts to about 185 million US dollars per year, a figure which is expected to increase twofold, or even threefold, over the next few years.

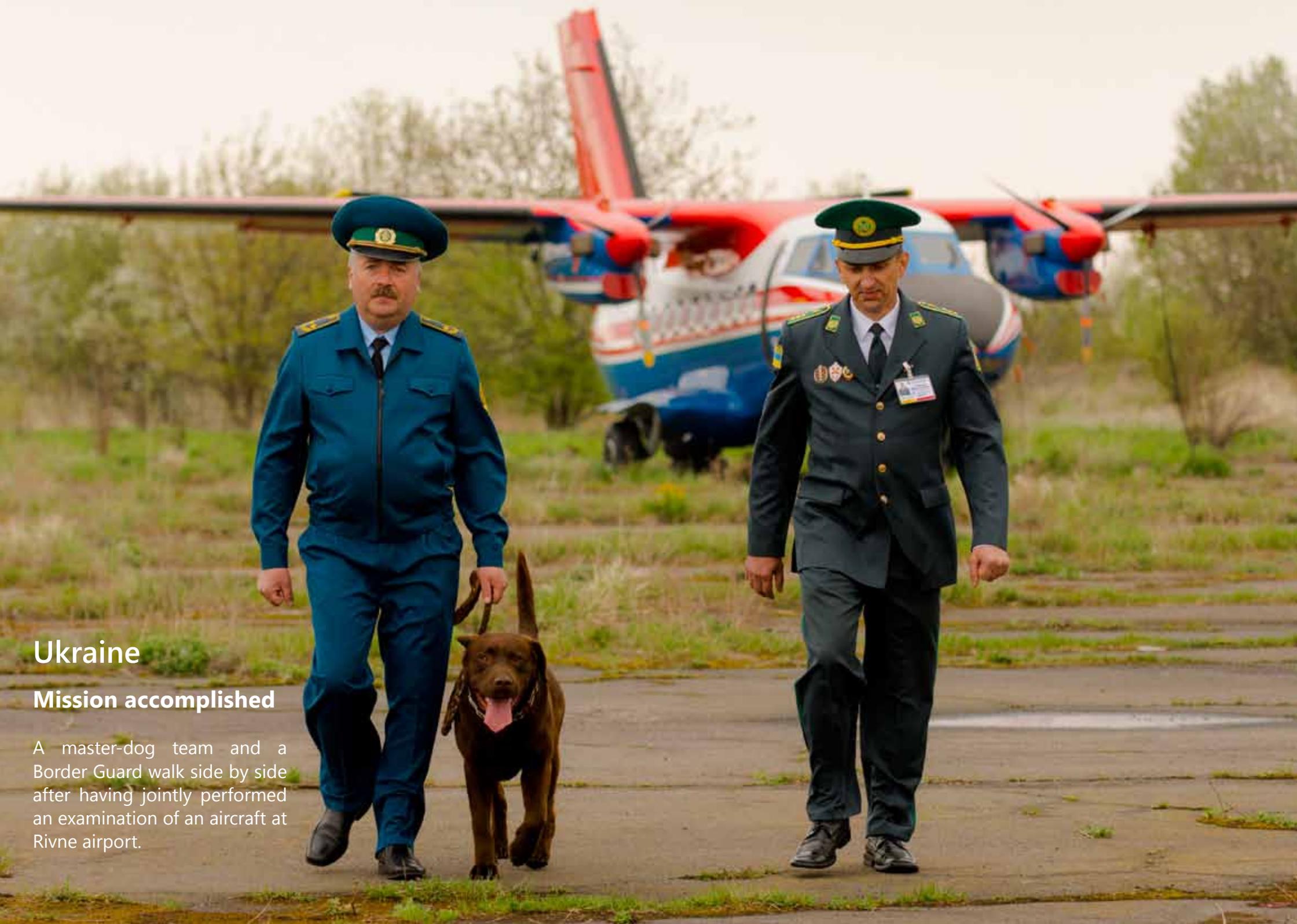


Thailand

Working, cooperating and building relationships

Customs officers from Thailand and the Union of Myanmar co-inspecting goods loaded on a truck at the Mae Sai border checkpoint. Officers from the two administrations have built a good relationship, enabling them to better manage the border.

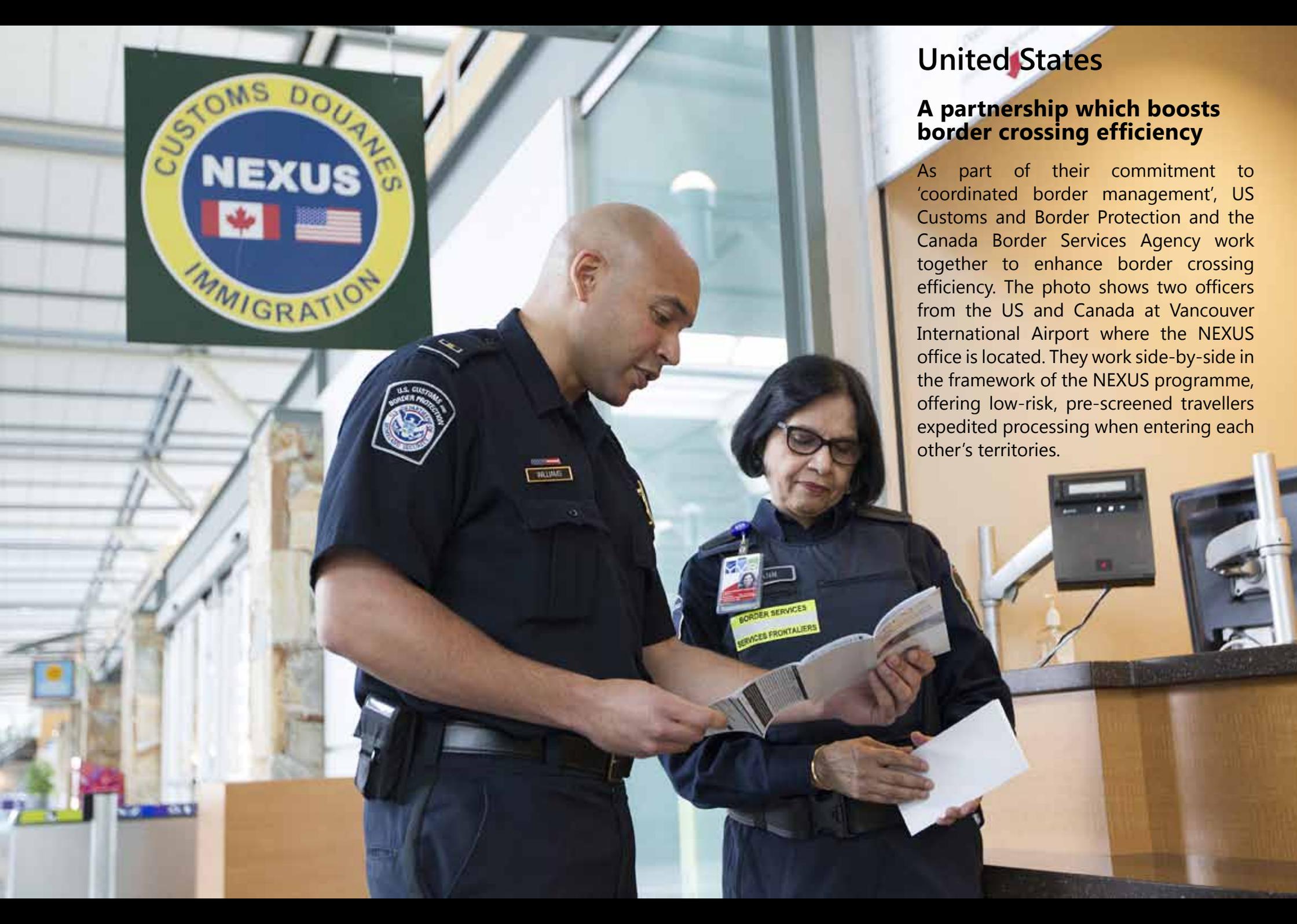




Ukraine

Mission accomplished

A master-dog team and a Border Guard walk side by side after having jointly performed an examination of an aircraft at Rivne airport.



United States

A partnership which boosts border crossing efficiency

As part of their commitment to 'coordinated border management', US Customs and Border Protection and the Canada Border Services Agency work together to enhance border crossing efficiency. The photo shows two officers from the US and Canada at Vancouver International Airport where the NEXUS office is located. They work side-by-side in the framework of the NEXUS programme, offering low-risk, pre-screened travellers expedited processing when entering each other's territories.



Uruguay

Integration in global trade

Uruguay's most important entry points illustrate the country's integration into global trade: the port of Montevideo, one of South America's major ports; Fray Bentos international bridge, linking the country with Argentina; Rio Branco, on the border with Brazil; and Salto on the east bank of the Rio Uruguay, connecting the neighbouring Argentinian city of Concordia.

