

RECOMMENDATION
OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CO-ORDINATED ENFORCEMENT
AND INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS AIMED AT IDENTIFYING
AND INTERCEPTING CONCEALED ILLICIT DRUGS

(13 JUNE 1985)

THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL,

RECOGNIZING the high cost to society of illicit drug trafficking, drug abuse and drug related crime,

CONSIDERING that the international nature of the illicit drug traffic makes the role of Customs services in preventing and suppressing this traffic crucial,

HAVING REGARD to the international Convention on mutual administrative assistance for the prevention, investigation and repression of Customs offences (Nairobi, 9 June 1977),

HAVING REGARD to the Recommendation of the Customs Co-operation Council on mutual administrative assistance (5 December 1953),

HAVING REGARD to the Resolution of the Customs Co-operation Council concerning the prevention of illicit traffic in narcotics, stimulants and similar substances (7 June 1967),

HAVING REGARD to the Recommendation of the Customs Co-operation Council on the spontaneous exchange of information concerning illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (8 June 1971),

TAKING NOTE that the methods and the routes used by drug smugglers, and by heroin and cocaine smugglers in particular, are becoming increasingly sophisticated and complex,

RECOGNIZING that the proper balance between the needs of Customs enforcement and the facilitation of legitimate trade and travel can be best achieved if Customs enforcement is selective and intelligence based and that it is therefore essential that every effort be made to develop and exploit the best possible intelligence,

NOTING ALSO that the co-operation of airline companies, shipping companies and others involved in the international transport and travel industries can significantly assist Customs authorities in the gathering of information and other aspects of combating drug smuggling,

EXPRESSING the hope that where any aspect of the practical steps needed to implement this Recommendation, in any particular Member country, is not a matter within the sole competence of a Customs authority, there will be the maximum co-operation at the national level,

RECOMMENDS that States, whether or not Members of the Council, should :

1. examine the possibility of identifying potential drug couriers arriving from source countries and transiting to other countries, with a view to advising urgently the Customs authorities of those countries to facilitate the interception of those couriers or the further monitoring of their journeys as may be most appropriate in each case,
2. similarly examine the possibilities for identifying potential drug couriers on their outward journeys to source countries, or countries on the established routes to source countries and notifying the resulting information to the Customs authorities of the concerned countries, to facilitate the further monitoring of the couriers' journeys and the eventual interception of drugs,
3. ensure that there are effective channels for the timely transmission and exploitation of information gained by these activities, such channels to be established by bilateral or multilateral arrangements as may be most appropriate in each particular case,
4. in particular arrange that their appropriate investigation or enforcement services undertake direct discussions with the equivalent services of countries perceived as likely to be affected with a view to agreeing on flights and sailings to be monitored, current courier profiles and channels for urgent operational communications,
5. seek, to the extent possible and by whatever means appear most appropriate, to secure the fullest co-operation of airline and shipping companies and others involved in the international transport and travel industries to assist the international Customs community in suppressing the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,
6. advise the Secretary General periodically of the steps which have been taken and progress made in the implementation of this Recommendation,

REQUESTS States, whether or not Members of the Council, which accept this Recommendation to notify the Secretary General of their acceptance, and of the date from which they will apply the Recommendation and the conditions of its application. The Secretary General will transmit this information to the Customs administrations of all Members. He will also transmit it to any Customs administrations of non-Members which have accepted this Recommendation.
