

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION**  
**CONCERNING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME**

**(18 June 1997)**

The WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION,

RECOGNIZING that transnational organized crime is transborder crime,

ACKNOWLEDGING that transnational crime nearly always concerns the international transportation of illicit goods and/or the proceeds of crime, or conveyances or people,

RECOGNIZING the legal and operational responsibilities of Customs for protecting national borders and acting with regard to effective border protection within a national territory,

RECOGNIZING ALSO that all Customs administrations have the prime responsibility for detecting contraband and to control the cross-border movement of goods, conveyances and people,

RECOGNIZING ALSO that many Customs administrations have the responsibility for investigating cross-border criminal offences,

NOTING THE EFFORTS already undertaken by the WCO to promote the exchange of border crime-related intelligence at regional and international levels,

HAVING IN MIND the recent activities of the P8 Senior Experts Group and other international and regional initiatives to improve law enforcement co-operation, and

UNDERLINING THE NEED for improved multi-agency action and to foster co-operation and to improve confidence and reliable working mechanisms amongst law enforcement agencies and to obtain co-operation of the international trading community,

RECOMMENDS that Members of the WCO and other relevant law enforcement organizations should :

- (i) Examine closely the recommendations made by the P8 Senior Experts Group related to transnational organized crime and to develop strategies which will enable Customs administrations to make full contributions to combating transnational crime, taking into account the need to facilitate and co-operate with legitimate trade;
- (ii) Promote co-operation between Customs administrations and with law enforcement agencies, within the national legal framework, including the exchange of intelligence and information on a reciprocal basis, for efficient countermeasures against transnational crime;
- (iii) Strengthen the framework for the international exchange of intelligence and information including support for the network of RILO offices;
- (iv) Implement measures focused at applying a multi-agency approach to combat transnational crime in the areas of combating drug trafficking, money laundering, firearms trafficking, smuggling and fraud;

- (v) Seek the co-operation of their national law enforcement counterparts in order to identify Customs actions to pursue operations against international border related crime;
  - (vi) Invite governments to include Customs representatives in delegations to international law enforcement meetings, to enable Customs to contribute to initiatives against transnational crime.
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