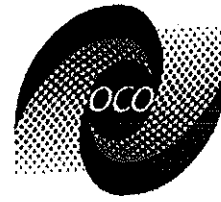




World Customs Organization



**Oceania**  
Customs Organisation

Memorandum of Understanding  
between the  
World Customs Organization (WCO)  
and the  
Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO)

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)**  
**AND THE OCEANIA CUSTOMS ORGANISATION (OCO)**

The WCO (established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council) and the OCO (established in 1986 as the Customs Heads of Administration Regional Meeting) referred to hereinafter as "the Parties" :

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that Customs is a critical institution for achieving national economic prosperity, social wellbeing and effective fiscal management;

**RECOGNIZING** that the WCO seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Customs administrations to facilitate international trade, maximize revenue yield and control frontiers through the use of international instruments, the adoption of best practices and programmes of reform and modernization;

**NOTING** equally that the OCO seeks to promote efficiency and effectiveness in all aspects of Customs administration in Oceania, through the fostering of harmonization, co-operation and assistance between its Members to ensure that their interests and concerns are projected effectively to governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector both within and beyond the region;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** each Organization's role and mission and that co-operation between the Parties is essential to the economic, fiscal and social wellbeing of their respective membership;

**BEING CONVINCED** that such co-operation will assist Customs administrations throughout Oceania to introduce international best practices and harmonized procedures, to respond effectively to the global threat of transnational crime and commercial fraud, to further international trade facilitation and otherwise be generally mutually beneficial to the Parties;

**DESIRING** that this will reinforce the significant bilateral support and assistance given by WCO Members such as Australia, France and New Zealand to developing countries within Oceania;

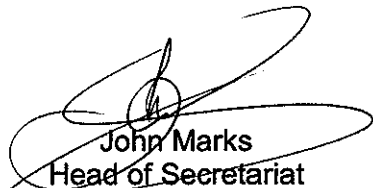
**BEING COMMITTED** to a partnership which maximizes the benefits for their respective membership;

**THE PARTIES HAVE AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING :**

1. To maintain effective and systematic consultation, co-operation and the exchange of information between the WCO and the OCO in support of this Memorandum of Understanding.
2. In pursuit of this common objective, the WCO agrees to :
  - Invite the OCO to attend its annual Council Sessions (and such other meetings as it may be beneficial to attend) as an observer;
  - Provide the OCO Secretariat with access to the WCO Members' Web site to download relevant documentation; and
  - Provide OCO Members with access to the WCO Members' Web site to enable them to access all recent working documents and a wide range of Customs-related material including training modules, guidelines, best practices, technical decisions and details of activities. In addition, this will provide an effective, low-cost option for OCO administrations wishing to become involved in WCO affairs by giving them access to various technical discussion forums.
3. For its part, the OCO agrees to:
  - Invite the WCO to attend its Annual Conference of Customs Heads (and such other meetings as it may be beneficial to attend) as an observer;
  - Encourage its Members to improve their efficiency and effectiveness by adopting WCO instruments and best practices as the basis for their Customs procedures and processes.
4. The Parties shall also exchange, on a regular basis, publications, documents and other information relating to smuggling and Customs fraud.
5. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated, with three months notice of effect, through written advice to the other party.

Done at *Brussels..* on *6 May..* 2002.

  
Michel Danet  
Secretary General  
World Customs Organization

  
John Marks  
Head of Secretariat  
Oceania Customs Organisation