



Memorandum of Understanding
between
The Customs Co-operation Council
and
The International Chamber of Shipping

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING

RECOGNIZING that offences against Customs laws, particularly drug smuggling, are prejudicial to the economic, social, fiscal and security interests of States and to the interests of all parties involved in legitimate international trade, and that such offences may involve the use of any transportation facility including merchant vessels and their cargoes,

NOTING that the escalation in drug trafficking necessitates Customs authorities to increase their surveillance and controls,

AWARE that such increased controls could result in additional expense and costly delays to operators of merchant vessels engaged in legitimate trade,

BELIEVING that increased co-operation between shipowners and Customs authorities could significantly assist those authorities in the gathering of information and other aspects of combating Customs fraud, in particular drug smuggling,

BELIEVING ALSO that such co-operation would be of benefit to all parties in legitimate trade including shipping companies and their agents,

THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL AND THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING have agreed as follows :

- (i) To strengthen further the co-operation between the two organizations,
- (ii) To examine and develop together ways in which co-operation and consultation between shipowners and Customs authorities could be improved with a view to combating Customs fraud, in particular drug smuggling,
- (iii) To seek to ensure a better understanding by shipowners of Customs authorities' tasks and problems and vice-versa, thereby facilitating a productive exchange of information between the two parties,
- (iv) To consider practical ways in which the personnel of shipping companies and their agents might assist Customs authorities in the detection of Customs offences, in particular, those relating to drug smuggling.

Done at Brussels on 5 December 1985.



J.C.S. HORROCKS,
Secretary General
of the
International Chamber
of Shipping



G.R. DICKERSON,
Secretary General
of the
Customs Co-operation
Council