

WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE
“BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES CONTAINERS
ET DU TRANSPORT INTERMODAL (B.I.C.)”
AND THE
WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)**

Handwritten signature and initials in the bottom right corner.

HA

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE
"BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES CONTAINERS
ET DU TRANSPORT INTERMODAL (B.I.C.)"
AND THE
WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (WCO)¹**

The "Bureau International des Containers et du Transport Intermodal (B.I.C.)" and the World Customs Organization (WCO), referred to hereinafter as "the Parties" :

AWARE of the crucial role played by Customs administrations in international trade, both in their capacity as representatives of the State responsible for ensuring compliance with the economic, fiscal, environmental and cargo security rules, and in their capacity as full partners of global trade operators in their endeavours to facilitate the development of trade,

AWARE of the specific role played by the B.I.C., established in 1933 under the auspices of the International Chamber of Commerce as a "studies and liaison body linking all the business representatives of the various countries involved in the development of containerization and intermodal transport", in its capacity as the qualified and recognized representative of intermodal and container transport operators,

NOTING the effectiveness of policies for the harmonization and simplification of Customs procedures and of the various information systems managed from the outset by the WCO, in increasingly close co-operation with economic operators,

NOTING also the desire displayed by the WCO to strengthen the Customs/Business partnership,

NOTING, moreover, the valuable expert assistance rendered by the B.I.C. in the drafting of Conventions and international standards, as well as practical handbooks on intermodal and container transport,

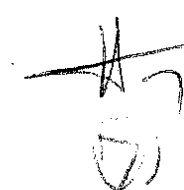
NOTING also the need for, and the effectiveness of, the function performed by the B.I.C. in the ISO framework, as the exclusive world-wide holder of the Register of alphanumeric container owners' codes - known as the "Containers-B.I.C." codes - which were developed by the B.I.C. with the advent of containerization,

AWARE of the appropriateness of giving formal status to the close co-operation established between the Parties from the outset, i.e., since the Customs Co-operation Council was established in 1952,

RECOGNIZING that the WCO and the B.I.C. desire to establish a mutually supportive relationship to improve security of import, export and transit movements of containers in order to combat international terrorism,

RECOGNIZING also that the WCO and the B.I.C. wish to establish appropriate arrangements for co-operation in furtherance of the work of the WCO on security and facilitation of the international supply chain to secure and protect international trade,

¹ Established as the Customs Co-operation Council.



RECOGNIZING also that the WCO and the B.I.C. wish to establish appropriate arrangements for co-operation in furtherance of the work of the WCO on security and facilitation of the international supply chain to secure and protect international trade,

BELIEVING that increased co-operation between Members of the B.I.C. and Customs administrations could significantly assist in the gathering of information on Customs and security breaches,

BELIEVING also that such co-operation would be of benefit to all parties in legitimate trade,

Agree as follows :

ARTICLE I

The Parties shall co-operate in the discharge of their respective mandates in accordance with the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding.²

ARTICLE II

The Parties agree to establish and maintain effective, systematic consultation and co-operation between each other in support of this Memorandum. The consultation and co-operation may include initiatives to improve the WCO Business Partnership Programmes to enhance security.

ARTICLE III

The Parties agree to exchange information and keep each other informed of projected activities and programmes of work in the field of container security and integrity in multimodal transport. Such exchange of information shall include new developments on matters of common interest.

ARTICLE IV

In accordance with their internal rules and procedures, the Parties shall invite each other to their meetings of common interest, as observers.

ARTICLE V

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signature.
2. It shall be reviewed upon the request of either the Secretary General of the WCO or the Secretary General of the B.I.C., and may be amended by mutual agreement.

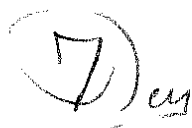
² For the purposes of this Memorandum, any reference to the WCO or the B.I.C. (and not explicitly to the WCO Secretariat or the B.I.C. Secretariat) or to the institution or the organization, is understood to refer to the decision-making bodies of the WCO and the B.I.C., respectively.

Handwritten signature and initials in the bottom right corner of the page.

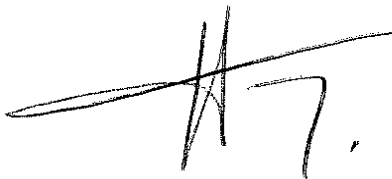
3. This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Party at any time, by written notification.
4. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be regarded as an administrative arrangement between the Parties thereto. Any dispute over the interpretation or application of any provision herein contained shall be settled through negotiations or by such other means as the Parties shall mutually agree.

Done at the WCO Headquarters, in Brussels, on 24 June 2004, in two copies in the English and the French languages, both being equally authoritative.

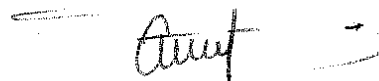
Jean REY
Secretary General



Michel HENNEMAND
President



Michel DANET
Secretary General



Bureau International des Containers
et du Transport Intermodal

World Customs Organization