



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the

World Customs Organization¹

and the

International Chamber of Commerce

to Promote and Support Efficiency

in Customs Control and Facilitation

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter the “MoU”) is concluded between the WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION (hereinafter the “WCO”) and the INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (hereinafter the “ICC”).

The WCO and the ICC may also be individually referred to as “Party” or collectively as “Parties”.

Recognizing that customs administrations play a key role in international trade, and that the manner in which they fulfill their responsibilities can have a substantial impact on the ease, cost and speed of movement of goods across international borders;

Recognizing also that companies need uniform, clear and simple customs rules and procedures to facilitate cross-border trade in order to develop global business strategies building on worldwide trade liberalization agreements;

Noting the long-standing working relationship between the Parties;

Noting also the unique representative role of the ICC as sole global representative of the international business community, and its support for the WCO’s strategic objectives of customs reform and modernization;

¹ Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council.

Noting also the willingness of the WCO and the ICC to promote simple and efficient customs procedures and to develop and promote joint initiatives to this end;

Believing that modern business and customs techniques can reconcile more effective official controls with improved trade facilitation;

Replacing and superseding the Cooperation Agreement between the Parties initiated in June 1996 and signed by WCO former Secretary General James W. Shaver and ICC former Secretary General Jean-Charles Rouher by this MoU.

The Parties have agreed as follows :

ARTICLE 1 – COOPERATION

The Parties agree:

- a) To establish effective and systematic consultation, cooperation and the exchange of information between the WCO and the ICC in support of this MoU;
- b) To invite ICC representatives to such specialist WCO Working Parties or other ad hoc groups as may be open to them and relevant to ICC interests and to invite WCO representatives to relevant ICC meetings;
- c) To promote cooperation between customs administrations and the ICC to support the concept of this MoU and, in particular, ICC/WCO joint activities;
- d) To hold regular consultative meetings between the ICC and the WCO to enable their respective members and Secretariats to exchange views;
- e) To consult and cooperate in order to produce and promote mutually beneficial objectives and policies together with other international institutions;
- f) To develop, maintain, and promote guidelines for customs/business best practices;
- g) To identify sources of technical and financial assistance to support customs administrations with reform, modernization, and training programmes;
- h) To review and update the provisions and operation of this MoU in the light of experience;
- i) To produce a document outlining a joint working programme which will be updated on a regular basis.

ARTICLE 2 - APPLICABILITY

This MoU constitutes an expression of mutual good faith and it is not intended to create legally binding obligations on either Party.

ARTICLE 3 – DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any difference or dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this MoU will be resolved amicably by negotiation between the Parties.

ARTICLE 4 – AMENDMENTS AND TERMINATION

- a) This MoU shall be reviewed upon the request of either Party and may be amended by mutual agreement in writing.
- b) Either Party may terminate this MoU at any time by giving the other Party written notice of three (3) months.

ARTICLE 5 – MISCELLANEOUS

Any specific activities identified under this MoU as opportunities for cooperation between the Parties may be the subject of arrangements determined in accordance with the internal and respective objectives, functions, policies and procedures and funding constraints of the Parties and subject to their formal approval.

This MoU shall enter into force on the date of its signature by both Parties or on the date of the last signature and will remain operative until terminated.

In witness whereof, the Parties have concluded the present MoU in two (2) originals in the English and French languages and appended their signatures thereto.

Done in Brussels on 27 June 2011



Kunio Mikuriya
Secretary General
World Customs Organization.



Jean-Guy Carrier
Secretary General
International Chamber of
Commerce.