



World Customs Organization Excise Summit

2-3 July 2012

Brussels

Summary conclusions

The World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC) joined together to organize for the first time a Global Excise Summit to discuss customs tax administration and enforcement activities aimed at fair and efficient revenue collection.

More than 160 participants from over 60 countries representing Public, Private Sector and academia came together to discuss public/private partnership regarding tax administration and enforcement.

Key presentations and discussions are summarized as follows:

- The WCO Secretary General opening comments encouraged Members to grant benefits / incentives to compliant private sector entities as outlined in WCO trade facilitation instruments. He said in the areas of fair and accurate revenue collection and economic development Customs and the private sector had important roles to play. He reiterated that customs were law enforcement organization and the WCO would continue to support Members to develop efficient and effective cross-border controls.
- The WCO is keen to encourage forums where tax administrators, Customs and Private Sector can come together and discuss specific issues such as valuation, enforcement and auditing techniques to reduce administrative burdens between Customs, excise, VAT and income tax.
- The fundamentals of excise regimes, the strengths and weaknesses of current excise policies and administrations and how they may be strengthened for the future to meet government, societal and trade expectations were outlined.
- Excise duties remain a significant component of governments' revenue receipts. Therefore, it is important to have a transparent, predictable and balanced approach to excise tax administration, reducing bureaucracy and providing real incentives to encourage compliance.
- The need to establish and maintain robust excise controls at national level, building on an increased cooperation between Customs, excise, tax authorities and other law enforcement

agencies aimed at the protection of budget revenues at risk from the growth of illicit trade was identified.

- WCO Members presented their experiences on revenue reforms and their implication for Customs' operations.
- Cross-border cooperation at the international level significantly improves the operational impact of enforcement activities and supports coordinated responses to tackle excise tax evasion and illicit trade.
- Cooperation of Customs / tax authorities with legitimate and compliant businesses improves transparency and security of the supply chain of licit trade and supports joint interests of both public and legitimate private sector entities to curb illicit trade.
- Knowing the governance regimes of key industry sectors are an important element when evaluating risk and reporting requirements. Customs and trade should build relationships and share information to understand both domestic and international markets.
- Public and private sector parties involved in excise tax management are encouraged to explore how different delivery channels, such as key account client management and third party audits can be utilized / developed to provide increased revenue assurance at best cost for trade and governments.
- Technology and electronic solutions support tax administration and Customs in enhancing transparency, revenue protection and supply chain control. This could be of particular relevance when considering dematerialization / digitalization of documents and automated risk assessment systems.

**Supporting material and additional research documents can be accessed via the websites of the International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC) <http://www.iticnet.org/> and the World Customs Organization (WCO) www.wcoomd.org*
