RILO for Western Europe

Overview of results of WCO risk analysis, including the WCO global Reports on Drugs/Tobacco/IPR

Role of Customs:

- Collecting and safeguarding Customs duties
- Controlling the flow of goods
- Enforcing rules on prohibitions and restrictions

Challenges:

- Large profits to be made through false declaration or smuggling of goods
- When Customs intensifies its controls, its "counterpart" reacts by finding new routes, methods of concealment or conveyance, etc.

Summary of the "Customs and IPR Report 2011"

Some facts:

- 20,932 cases amounting to 143 million pieces and 1.8 million kg included in the Report
- Accessories and clothing lead the fake items
- Increase in seizures of counterfeit pharmaceutical products – health risk!
- Increase in seizures involving small parcels
- Asia is still the top departure region
- 50% of all seizures were made at mail centres, followed by 24.5% at seaports

Summary of the "Customs and IPR Report 2011"

Some challenges:

- Smuggling via small parcels – due to the high number of parcels, inspections are time-consuming and require high levels of staff to detect only small amounts
- Option to order fake products via the Internet – this makes them easy to buy and low risk for sellers (false addresses), as monitoring the Internet is almost impossible
- A lot of containers arrive in seaports, yet only a few can be selected for controls
- Cost of storage and destruction of counterfeit goods

Summary of the "Customs and Drugs Report 2011"

Some facts:

- 32,035 seizures over the minimum limit
- Afghanistan is the main source country for opiates, however the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Lao People´s Democratic Republic are new source countries (World Drug Report 2011, UNODC)
- The number of amphetamine seizures and quantities involved have steadily and substantially increased since 2009
- The Caribbean region has overtaken Africa for secondary distribution of cocaine from South America to Europe
- 15 African countries have come to light as sources for methamphetamine heading to the Asia/Pacific region – emerging trend

Summary of the "Customs and Drugs Report 2011"

Some challenges:

- Cooperation with some source countries, e.g. Afghanistan with regard to opiates, is not possible
- Problem of so-called "legal highs", substances not controlled by drug laws. No sooner are they are covered by the legislation than new substances appear
- Dismantling of clandestine laboratories, now forming a globalized and interconnected market – psychotropic substances
- Indoor cultivation of cannabis – detecting and preventing production at the outset
- Cocaine distribution throughout the Caribbean region by means of aircraft, ships and yachts

Summary of the "Customs and Tobacco Report 2011"

Some facts:

- 1,026 seizures (over 100,000 pieces) amounting to 1.9 billion pieces
- Most of the seizures were made in Europe, with 44% of the quantity detected at seaports
- Notable decrease in cases departing from China
- Ukraine, Russia and Belarus top departure countries
- Significant increase in cigarettes bearing brand names which are more or less unknown to the public ('cheap whites/illicit whites') – legal production in the source country and legal sale to the initial purchaser, but not legally available in the destination countries/do not comply with regulatory standards

Summary of the "Customs and Tobacco Report 2011"

Some challenges:

- Detection and dismantling of illegal cigarette factories
- Counterfeit cigarettes – significant revenue loss
- 'Cheap/illicit whites'
- High cigarette prices in Europe compared to other regions
- Sale of tobacco products over the Internet

Other commodities

- Anabolic steroids/doping substances – growing market, especially via the Internet
- Precursors – detecting and testing the substances – health risk for the inspection units
- Money laundering – tracing the route taken by the money and confiscating it
- Weapons – more and more automatic weapons can be found on Europe's streets
- Dual-use goods – especially for the production of nuclear materials and weapons of mass destruction
- Protection of consumer health and safety in many different ways (food, clothes, spare parts, etc.)

Challenges relating to all commodities:

- Professional structure of organized crime groups – often only the low-level criminals are arrested and provide no background information. Dismantling the entire organization is very difficult
- A lot of countries do not have access to passenger data held by airline companies which would be helpful for risk analysis and targeting operations
- Tracking and identifying small aircraft and yachts
- Customs controls of maritime traffic fall within an international framework, involving a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements
- Lack of mutual assistance, especially with some source or major transit countries

Challenges relating to all commodities:

- Internet – worldwide trade via the Internet. Data protection for owners of websites/users/traders, etc. and tracking the goods
- Laboratories – identifying a substance and whether or not it is a fake product, etc.
- International cooperation with Customs, Police or other law enforcement agencies not always possible

Thank you for your attention!

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