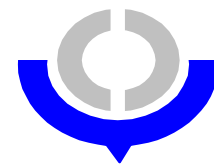


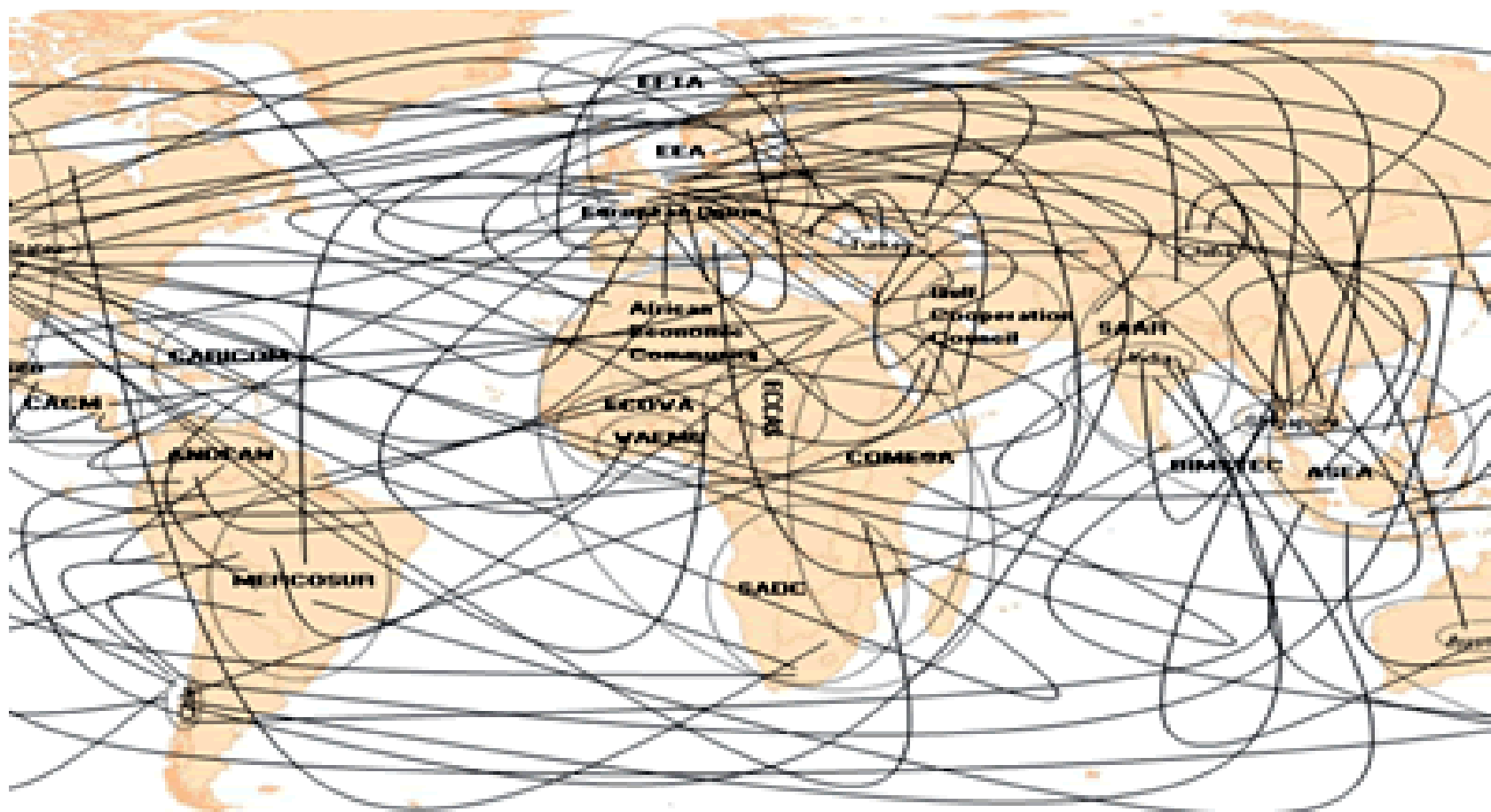
# Rules of Origin – WCO tools

WCO Origin Conference 2014  
Brussels, 20-21 January 2014

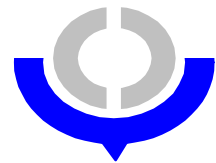
Mette Werdelin Azzam  
Technical Officer  
Origin Sub-Directorate  
World Customs Organization  
[Mette.azzam@wcoomd.org](mailto:Mette.azzam@wcoomd.org)



## THE SPAGHETTI BOWL OF COMPLEX AND OVERLAPPING RULES OF ORIGIN LEGISLATIONS



How to structure the complex environment of the rules of origin tangle in the comparative study ?



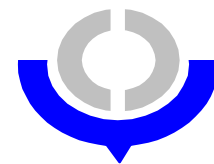
# WCO Origin Action Plan

- Action Plan to enhance the understanding and proper application of preferential rules of origin
- Adopted by WCO Council in June 2007
- 5 key issues:
  - Development of a database of preferential trade arrangements
  - Development of a comparative study on preferential origin
  - Training and seminars
  - Adaptation of TCRO and WCO structures
  - International role of WCO in rules of origin

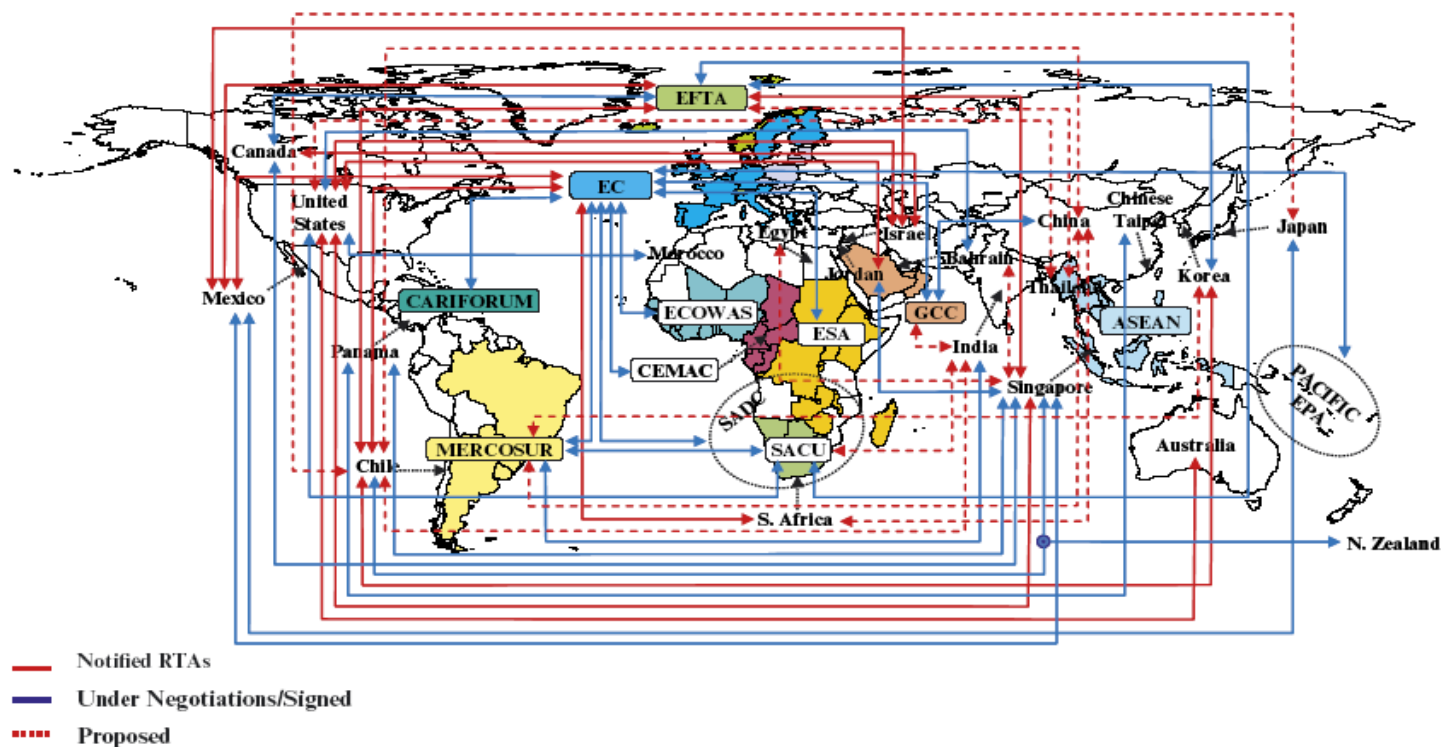
# Establish and maintain a Database of Preferential Rules of Origin

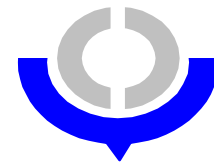


- Legal text of preferential rules of origin under FTAs
- Available to members of WCO and public
- Updated regularly
- Search and compare functions



# Database of free trade agreements





# Database of free trade agreements

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Origin DB website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://origindb.wcoomdpublications.org/Search>. The website header features the WCO logo and the text "ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES" and "WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Search", "All Agreements", "Compare rules", "Maps Links", "Samples of Certificates", and "Contact Us".

The main content area is titled "Last updated" and contains a table with the following data:

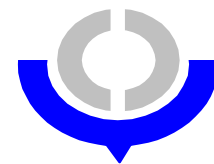
AGREEMENT NAME	COUNTRIES INVOLVED	ENTERED INTO FORCE	LAST UPDATED
ASEAN - Australia - New Zealand	ASEAN, Australia, New Zealand	January 1, 2010	December 16, 2013
ASEAN - Japan	ASEAN, Japan	December 1, 2008	December 13, 2013
ASEAN - China	ASEAN, China	July 1, 2005	December 13, 2013
EU-Central America	Costa Rica, El Salvador, European Union, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama	August 1, 2013	November 21, 2013
EFTA(Liechtenstein, Switzerland) – Colombia	Colombia, Liechtenstein, Switzerland	July 1, 2011	November 19, 2013

Below the table, there is a search section titled "Find agreement(s) for following countries or regions" with a text input field and a dropdown menu showing "ASEAN" and "CARICOM".

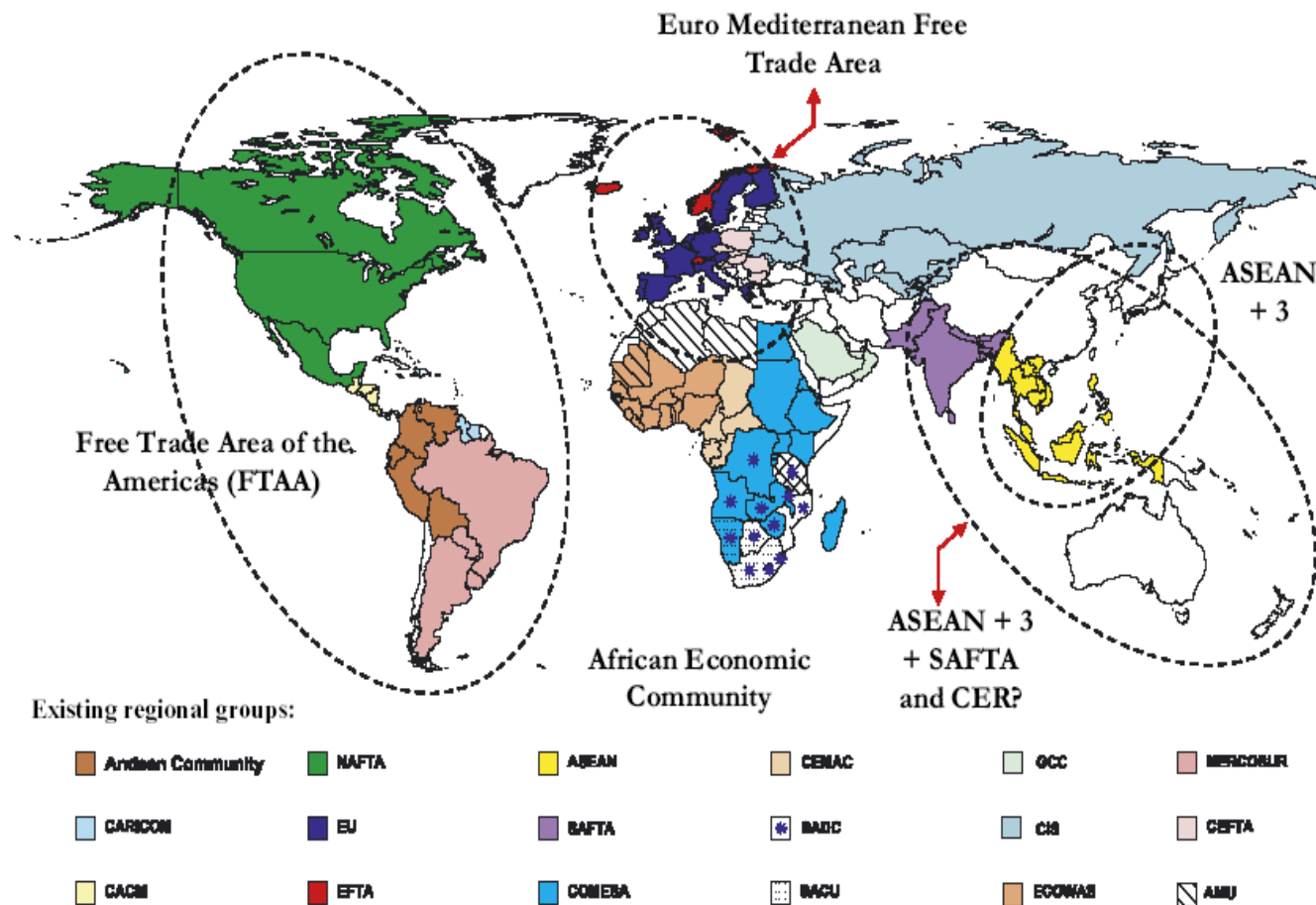


# Comparative study

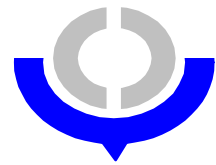
- Increase the level of support and understanding
- Recurrent themes which apply to all preferential arrangements
- Highlight of major differences/ commonalities and basic standards and norms



# Establishment of regional trading blocks





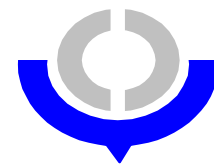


# REVENUE PACKAGE - BACKGROUND

- A response to Members' concerns regarding falling revenue returns in context of global financial crisis of 2008 and declining duty rates

## WCO Council Resolution – June 2009 :

*“The WCO Secretariat and Members should enhance even further the delivery of effective capacity building, especially as a response to declining revenue collection and obstacles to trade facilitation caused by the global economic downturn”*



# Revenue Package Action Plan



Customs Valuation



Origin



Classification



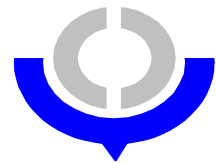
Improved availability, knowledge and use of tools and instruments





## Pillar 2: Preferential rules of origin

- Develop guidelines on verification and control of proofs of origin and post-clearance verification controls
  - National practices submitted by 5 volunteer Members
  - Drafting of Guidelines conducted via a Virtual Drafting Group
  - Guidelines endorsed by the WCO Council in June 2012



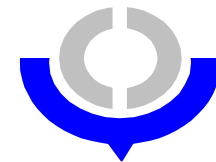
# Revenue Package Phase II

- Origin irregularities
  - Study based on questionnaire sent to Members
  - Study published on WCO web site
  - Drafting of guidance material
- Origin certification
  - Study on use of non preferential certificates of origin
  - Drafting of Guidelines on Origin Certification
  - Guidelines to be presented to PTC in March 2014 and WCO Council in June 2014



# Binding Origin Information

- Developed by the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (endorsed in 2011)
- Provide details to implement the provisions on advance rulings set out in the Agreement on Rules of Origin such as: application, issuance, declining/postponing of issuance, effect, annulment, modification/revocation etc.
- Applicable to both non-preferential and preferential rules of origin
- Non-binding nature



# Contact points

- Where to subscribe WCO Origin Database:  
<http://origindb.wcoomdpublications.org>
- How to reach WCO Origin Sub-directorate:  
e-mail: [Origin@wcoomd.org](mailto:Origin@wcoomd.org)