



## DECLARATION

*of the*

### ***AEO European Regional Forum***

The representatives of the participating countries of the WCO Europe Region

**Welcome** the SAFE Framework of Standards developed by the WCO as an optimal answer to facilitation and security challenges of the International Supply Chain;

**Acknowledging** the continuous efforts made by the European Region to further develop the AEO Concept in line with the WCO Safe Framework of Standards;

**Highlighting** the significant contribution of this international Forum to further raise awareness of the key importance of regional and international cooperation with special regard to AEO related issues;

**Highlighting** that AEO is a major security and facilitation tool that leads to modernizing customs when being introduced; AEO is seen as a tool that enhances economic growth and competitiveness. AEO tackles security and facilitation, thus important for all countries. Supply Chain management is key.

**Highlighting** need for consistency, predictability, transparency, sustainability (while ensuring a certain level of customization according to situation in a country).

#### **Having shown their commitment and agreed to**

**State** that the event was useful;

**Define** the end-to-end supply chain security and facilitation as an ultimate objective of the AEO concept;

**Further explore** benefits offered by the SAFE Framework of Standards based on continuous improvement of mutual trust between customs administrations and businesses;

**Enhance** their efforts to further develop the AEO model;

**Mutually share** their experience and best practices obtained in the course of introduction and implementation of AEO in order to provide assistance in overcoming AEO related eventual difficulties;

**Further enhance** cooperation by encouraging Members of the WCO Europe Region to organize such international events aiming at exchanging ideas and best practices, including Mutual Recognition Agreements

Astana, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013