

19th Conference of Directors General of Customs of totally or partially Francophone countries

DAKAR DECLARATION

The Directors General of Customs of totally or partially Francophone countries, meeting on 27 and 28 October 2014 in Dakar (Senegal) for their 19th Conference :

Aware of the role of Customs administrations in the emergence of a Francophone economic community;

Keen to strengthen Customs cooperation, particularly in the areas of capacity building and the sharing of experiences;

Aware of the role of Customs administrations in the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) drawn up under the auspices of the World Trade Organization as part of the Doha Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and adopted at the 9th Ministerial Conference in Bali (Indonesia) in December 2013;

Reaffirming the importance, for economic competitiveness, of implementing the Conventions, instruments and tools of the World Customs Organization (WCO), including in particular the Kyoto Convention on the simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures, known as the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC);

Noting all of the World Customs Organization's initiatives aimed at promoting and supporting the implementation of the TFA, such as the Mercator Capacity Building Programme;

Considering that in an environment characterized by the globalization of trade, the competitiveness of businesses is heavily dependent on the quality of Customs administrations' interventions;

Recalling that recourse to information technology offers new prospects for the simplification and modernization of controls, whilst at the same time helping to establish an environment conducive to the facilitation and development of trade;

Wishing to work together to help make international trade more secure, threatened as it is by a new wave of scourges including terrorism,

money laundering, trafficking in human organs and, especially, the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

Convinced that combating transnational crime must involve harmonizing the actions of all the defence and security forces, and strengthening Customs cooperation;

Certain that building the capacity of Customs administrations is fundamental to this cooperation and these actions;

Reaffirming their commitment to the Brussels Declaration, which was adopted at the 18th Conference, held in Belgium on 1 and 2 July 2013;

have drawn up and adopted the following recommendations:

- (1) the measures set out in the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation will be incorporated in the legal frameworks of Customs administrations, and a considerate application of the TFA will be promoted and encouraged;
- (2) international organizations will be asked to lend their support to the rapid, straightforward and harmonized implementation of the TFA;
- (3) the active involvement of all participants in the supply chain is required, with a view to achieving a reduction in the costs and duration of the passage of goods across borders and along transit corridors;
- (4) the development of dry ports, in partnership with the private sector, in order to relieve congestion at sea ports, the interconnection of Customs administrations at the sub-regional and regional levels, and the maximum use of information technology, which are all factors that help to reduce processing times and the time taken for goods to clear Customs;
- (5) for the sake of economic growth and competitiveness, the fight against Customs offences and illicit trafficking must be supported by risk management, which represents the best means of achieving the facilitation of procedures;
- (6) combating Customs offences and illicit trafficking of all kinds is an essential task of Customs administrations and border services;
- (7) Customs administrations shall use all modern means at their disposal to eradicate the illicit trade in counterfeit goods and endangered wildlife species;

- (8) Customs administrations shall participate in the enhancement of cooperation in the area of information exchange, and shall lend assistance with a view to the identification, prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators of criminal acts;
- (9) Customs administrations shall seize all opportunities offered by the Francophone Customs community for cooperation and capacity building in the following priority areas :
- ✓ information exchange;
 - ✓ the illicit trade in endangered species;
 - ✓ best practices in the facilitation of procedures.
- (10) The Chair-in-Office will coordinate and monitor the recommendations of the Conference, with the support of the WCO where necessary.

Done at Dakar on 28 October 2014.