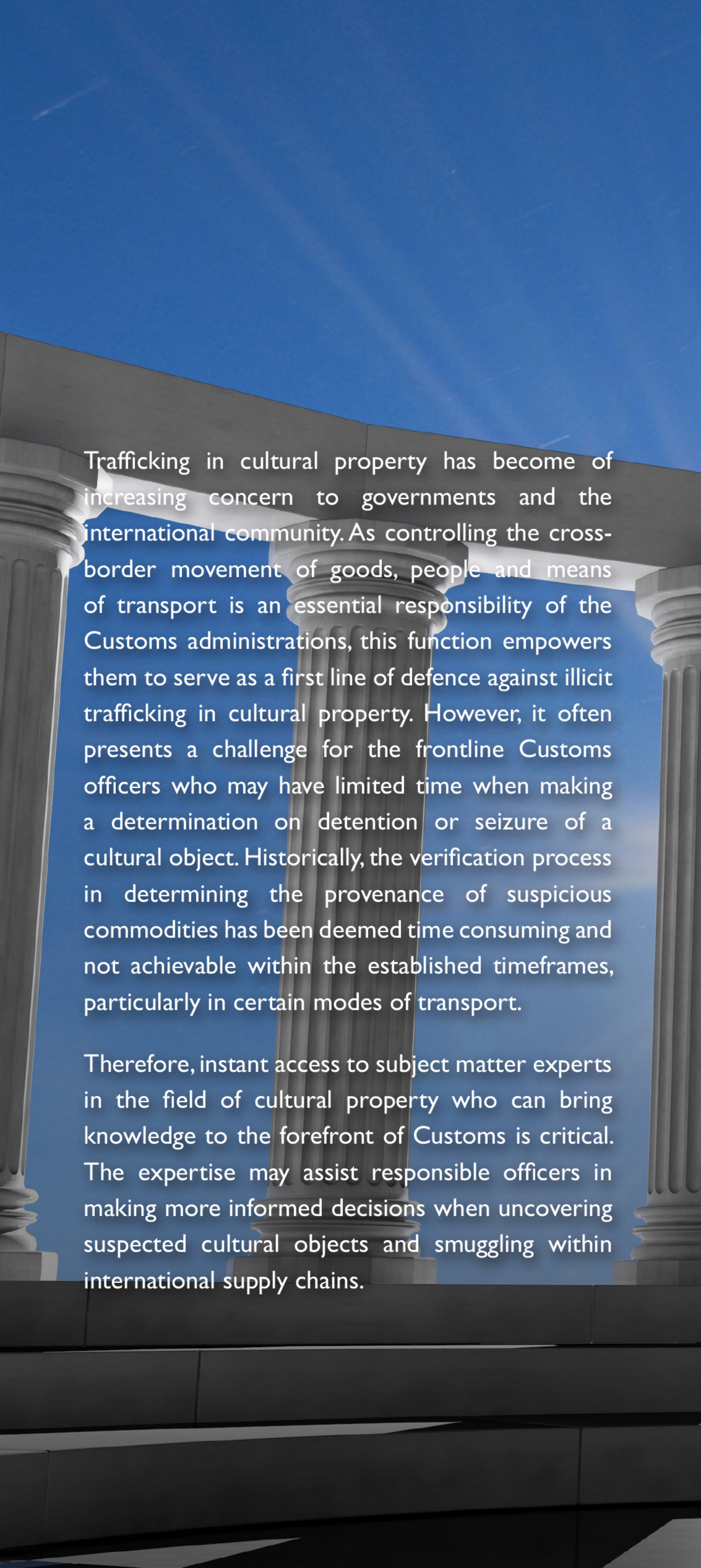


ARCHE 

Connect to preserve

The background of the page features a photograph of a classical building with several tall, fluted columns. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on this image in a white, sans-serif font.

Trafficking in cultural property has become of increasing concern to governments and the international community. As controlling the cross-border movement of goods, people and means of transport is an essential responsibility of the Customs administrations, this function empowers them to serve as a first line of defence against illicit trafficking in cultural property. However, it often presents a challenge for the frontline Customs officers who may have limited time when making a determination on detention or seizure of a cultural object. Historically, the verification process in determining the provenance of suspicious commodities has been deemed time consuming and not achievable within the established timeframes, particularly in certain modes of transport.

Therefore, instant access to subject matter experts in the field of cultural property who can bring knowledge to the forefront of Customs is critical. The expertise may assist responsible officers in making more informed decisions when uncovering suspected cultural objects and smuggling within international supply chains.



ARCHEO

ARCHEO

ARCHEO is a real-time communication tool for the information exchange and cooperation among Customs administrations, other enforcement agencies and competent national authorities, international organisations and experts from academia and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in order to prevent trafficking in cultural property.

Being a CENcomm application, ARCHEO is internet-based and accessible only to a selected and vetted closed user group approved by the Steering Group consisting of the WCO and its ARCHEO partners. This vetting process is established to ensure that the expert pool is the appropriate body to bring the highest possible value and expertise to enforcement officers. Information transmitted via the tool is encrypted and secured, and the tool is cost-effective, and easy to use. The ARCHEO platform is jointly managed by the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office in Western Europe (RILO WE) and the WCO.

ARCHEO aims to

- Enable the exchange of best practices
- Provide downloadable training materials, identification guides, manuals, and other background information valuable for Customs enforcement
- Exchange information on seizures and possible ongoing trafficking
- Establish discussion forums on specific topics
- Facilitate assistance and cooperation among recognised experts from the international organisations, competent national authorities and Customs administrations

Interested in knowing more?

This truly global and unique network is exclusively dedicated to the prevention of trafficking in cultural property and brings together experts committed to its protection. Joining ARCHEO presents an exceptional opportunity to be connected to your peers across the globe for real-time exchanges aimed at facilitating the identification of suspected objects with the goal to preserve cultural heritage, and dismantle and disrupt criminal networks aiming to loot and plunder it.

Contact the ARCHEO team: archeo@wcoomd.org

