



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

Customs and Drugs Report 2011



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Table of contents

FOREWORD	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
INTRODUCTION	7
GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF MAJOR DRUG TYPES	8
REGIONAL OVERVIEWS – EUROPE	17
REGIONAL OVERVIEWS – ASIA/PACIFIC	32
REGIONAL OVERVIEWS – THE AMERICAS	36
REGIONAL OVERVIEWS – AFRICA	41
REGIONAL OVERVIEWS – MIDDLE EAST	44
SPECIAL ITEMS	46
OPERATION COCAIR 3	46
PROJECT AIRCOP	49
INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING	50
GLOBAL FORUM ON COMBATING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND RELATED THREATS	51
STATISTICAL APPENDICES	56
CONTACT	61
WCO VISION STATEMENT	64
WCO MISSION STATEMENT	64
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	64



FOREWORD

It is a great honour to present to you the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Report on international trafficking in drugs and precursors for 2011.

This Report, which takes stock of and analyses drug seizures made by Customs services and joint teams in 2011, forms part of a dynamic drug enforcement approach which I wished to implement.

2011 afforded me several opportunities to point out that the drug phenomenon as a whole currently remains a complex social issue affecting many diverse yet complementary, interconnected and therefore inseparable areas: prevention, information, communication, research, security, safety, enforcement and international action.

As a result, if we want to be effective then it is vital that our action be concerted, holistic and consistent and that it offer a response to the major developments now emerging.

Consequently, on 26 June 2011, the WCO Secretariat celebrated International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, an event launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). To that end, I asked all Directors General of WCO Member countries to organize a variety of activities on that day. This included operations to destroy drugs and chemical precursors seized by Customs; actions to raise public awareness about drug-related problems; heightened controls; and symposiums to show how Customs and other law enforcement agencies are marshalling their forces to combat illicit drug trafficking.

In operational terms, given the success of Operations COCAIR 1 and COCAIR 2, not

only in terms of positive results but also of the enthusiasm generated and the motivation they inspired, a decision was made to organize a new operation reprising the same overall objectives as the first two: Operation "COCAIR 3".

This latest operation set in motion by the WCO, in partnership with INTERPOL, the European Commission and the UNODC, also falls within the scope of Project "AIRCOP" aimed at improving controls in international airports, especially by enhancing co-operation between drug enforcement services and by establishing effective and secure communication systems: CENcomm for Customs and I-24/7 for the Police.

In addition, the Container Control Programme (CCP), initiated by the UNODC and the WCO, continues to expand its activities by building on the excellent results achieved as well as on the practical knowledge and experience gained by the experts working in the existing Port Control Units.

In the near future, new Joint Port Control Units are to be set up in Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica and Morocco.

Other drug enforcement operations are already scheduled and will be rolled out in the second half of 2012. These are Operation COCAIR 4, which will follow on from previous operations; joint international Operation "SkyNet" aimed at combating drug trafficking via postal and express mail parcels (implemented by China Customs in close co-operation with the WCO Secretariat); and joint international Operation "Westerlies", proposed by Japan Customs (in partnership with the WCO), aimed at fighting the traffic in methamphetamine bound for the Asia/Pacific region.

In keeping with this dynamic approach, the Secretariat organized the first Global Forum on combating illicit drug trafficking and related threats. This event was held from 25 to 27 January 2012 as part of the celebrations to mark International Customs Day. The primary objective of this Forum was to bring together all the actors from Member countries and international and regional organizations dedicated to combating the traffic in drugs and chemical precursors and to share information on best practices and schemes in progress.

This first Global Forum on combating drugs was also preceded by an "International Conference on the fight against illicit drug trafficking" organized by the Customs Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan in partnership with the WCO and in close collaboration with the UNODC. This Conference was held in Baku on 17 and 18 October 2011.

It is also worth highlighting that on 30 March 2012, the WCO and the Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the co-operation developed by the two Organizations over many years and to enhance international drug control efforts within their respective mandates, thus ensuring a healthier and safer environment for citizens throughout the world.

The 2011 Customs and Drugs Report is divided into three main parts with statistical appendices. The first part gives an overview of the major drug types intercepted worldwide. The regional approach in terms of the results achieved and the key trends noted by Members are covered in the second part. Finally, the third part presents special items, with particular emphasis on initiatives and

projects implemented by the WCO Secretariat for its Members.

A total of 113 Members (for the period 2009-2011) reported seizures of drugs to the Customs Enforcement Network (CEN) database, relating to 47,776 cases. The analysis was based on data over the minimum limit : this encompasses data from 111 Members totalling 32,035 cases.

Overall, in 2011, both the number of drug seizures reported by WCO Members and the total amount of drugs intercepted increased substantially compared to 2010.

In point of fact, there has been a rise from 21,079 seizure reports involving 837 tonnes of drugs, irrespective of category, in 2010 to 32,035 reports involving over 1,865 tonnes of drugs in 2011. This steep increase is largely attributable to the United States.

Over the course of 2011, seizures of all forms of cannabis (resin, herbal and oil) amounted to a total of 1,615 tonnes, an increase of over two and a half times the amount intercepted in 2010. The United States remains the most effective country in terms of seizures of herbal cannabis, principally consigned in Mexico. Spain is still the country having seized most cannabis resin, and Morocco is the primary source country of this substance.

A little over 73 tonnes of cocaine were intercepted during 2011, compared to over 79 tonnes in 2010, equating to a decrease of approximately 7 %.

In keeping with what was noted in 2010, the main markets for cocaine consumption are located in Western Europe (47 % of quantities seized) and in North America (32 % of quantities seized).

Over 83 tonnes of opiate products were intercepted by Customs in 2011, compared to only 33 tonnes in 2010. This significant increase can be explained for the most part by exceptional seizures of poppy straw reported by Pakistan Customs officers.

With respect to psychotropic substances, the overall quantity of amphetamines and methamphetamines seized by Customs services increased slightly (20 tonnes of products in 2011, against 17 in 2010).

The countries of the Middle East were the most effective in terms of amphetamine seizures, together with the United States and Asian countries in the case of methamphetamines.

The RILO Eastern and Central Europe was recently tasked with carrying out a research project, known as "Project SMART", on the issue of new psychoactive substances. The results are currently being analysed and will subsequently be loaded onto the CEN site. These "legal highs" undoubtedly pose a real threat to society and there is an urgent need to put in place measures to counter this scourge effectively.

The data in this Report was compiled using information contained in the CEN database, which has been operational since July 2000. Today, 165 WCO Member administrations have access to the CEN database (over 513,000 entries on all manner of Customs offences), an information and communication system, a dedicated enforcement website and a data bank of places of concealment. The growing number of Customs officers using this network on a daily basis bears witness to its effectiveness.

Additionally, regional or international operations to combat Customs fraud, and drug traf-

ficking in particular, carried out using the WCO's secure communication tool have been increasing since 2005, the year it entered into service. Some 33 operations relating to various areas of crime, but essentially drugs, as well as long-term projects were conducted in 2011.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to WCO Members and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) which have made a contribution to this Report by entering cases and validating seizure data. Indeed, analysis is only as valuable as the quantity and quality of data on which it is based and, in this respect, greater involvement by certain Members or RILOs would unquestionably enhance the quality of the global analyses carried out.

I hope that this Report will provide assistance, on a daily basis, to Customs officers responsible for combating trafficking in drugs and precursors, especially by providing them with information on the latest trends or routings used by traffickers and by giving them a greater overall picture of the phenomenon.



Kunio Mikuriya
Secretary General
World Customs Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A total of 113 Members (from 2009-2011) reported drug seizures to the CEN database, relating to 47,776 cases. The following analysis is based on data over the minimum limit: this encompasses data from 111 Members totalling 32,035 cases.



» 1,730 marijuana plants (indoor cultivation) discovered by Czech Republic Customs.

(Photos courtesy of Czech Republic Customs)

In its World Drug Report for 2011, the UNODC establishes that Afghanistan is the main source country for illegal opiates produced internationally. The cultivation of the poppy has declined however in the past three years, standing at some 123,000 hectares in 2010 (the same level as in 2009), which is to say 63 % of what is cultivated worldwide. Cultivation has significantly increased in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and to a lesser degree in Lao People's Democratic Republic.

World opium production amounted to 4,860 million tonnes in 2010, compared to 7,853 million tonnes the previous year.

A study of the most important seizures in Europe shows that the amounts transported via the traditional "Balkan Route" (overland via Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and

Austria) were greater than those via the "Southern Balkan Route" (to Italy via Greece, Albania or The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The use of the "Silk Route" (via the Central Asian Republics of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan) remains as important as ever.

Regarding cocaine seized worldwide, data shows that the number of seizures and the amounts seized in 2011 remain relatively stable in comparison with the year 2010. The slight reduction in quantity is especially due to some reductions in the Caribbean region (Jamaica was not able to include its seizures carried out in 2011, although it seized more than two tonnes of cocaine in the reporting year), as well as in the regions of Eastern and Central Europe and Western Africa, which in 2010 made some exceptional seizures which strongly affected global results.

It can also be very clearly seen that the main markets for cocaine consumption are in Western Europe (47 % of quantities seized) and in North America (32 % of quantities seized). This is a constant that has held true for at least five years.

From 2005 to 2008, Africa has been a very important transit point for cocaine shipments coming from South America, with Europe as their final destination. This trend has changed since 2009, or at least has been attenuated. Countries from the Caribbean region, and especially the Dominican Republic, have begun to play a more important role as countries of secondary distribution for cocaine shipments bound for Europe.

Mozambique intercepted 12 cocaine shipments for a total of 65 kg in 2011. All of these seizures were carried out at Maputo interna-

tional airport, on a route going from India to Ethiopia then Mozambique.

Ships remain the most popular mode of transport for consignments of cocaine. Although consignments sent by sea only represent 4 % of the number of seizures carried out in 2011, they nevertheless make up more than 54 % of the amounts of cocaine that were intercepted. Shipping containers or specially contrived hiding places in commercial shipping craft, fishing boats or yachts are the preferred method of concealment for shipping large quantities of drugs.

Even though the number of seizures of cannabis resin has remained more or less stable (5 % less), the amounts have continued to decrease noticeably; 241 tonnes in 2010 versus 184 tonnes in 2011 (-25 %).

As was already the case already in both 2009 and 2010, Morocco remains the reference source country for cannabis resin, especially for the European market. Approximately 116 tonnes of the product (65 % of the total amount seized) come from this country when considering the data included in the CEN. The trends regarding trafficking in Europe remain similar to what they were in previous years, with most of the drugs being transported overland to Spain and then France, the Netherlands, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Germany.

Production of herbal cannabis remains widespread around the globe, as the climate of most regions is conducive to growing the plant.

The very sharp increase in terms of the number of seizures carried out and the amounts of product seized, as illustrated in the graphs, is mainly due to the fact that the United States began to include its drug seizures in the CEN database in 2009. In regard to herbal cannabis, the United States seized a total amount of more than 1,357 tonnes in 2011, which is to say three times the amount seized worldwide in 2009 and 2010. The majority of seizures carried out by the United States were made in-country, and a sig-

nificant number of the shipments that were intercepted came from Mexico.

For the year 2011 alone, the United States intercepted 42 shipments of herbal cannabis that each exceeded 2,000 kg of product.

After a significant decline in 2010, the number of seizures and the amounts of ecstasy seized showed strong increases throughout 2011. The amounts seized nevertheless remain well below those recorded at the beginning of the new millennium (between 3 and 5 tonnes per year).

The reason for this decrease lies mainly in the fact that ecstasy production is increasingly taking place in countries where the drug is consumed, therefore border seizures by Customs services are progressively decreasing in number.

The number of seizures of GBL fell sharply in 2011, but the quantities apprehended increased significantly, strongly influenced by an unusually large seizure of one tonne of GBL on 09/02/2011 by Finnish Customs in Porvoo. The GBL arrived by ship from China.

As had already been the case in 2009 and 2010, Norway remains the best performing country in the fight against this drug which represents a real danger to our society.

With regard to Customs seizures involving amphetamines, the situation remains virtually stable both in the number of interceptions and the quantities seized in 2010 and in 2011.

The number of seizures and the volume of amphetamines seized by Customs officers or by joint units of the Members of the Middle East region experienced strong growth in 2011 compared to 2010 (256 cases with a volume of 21,832 kg, compared to 124 cases with a volume of 10,009 kg).

The number of seizures and the volume of amphetamines seized by Customs services around the world has been growing constantly and significantly from 2009 onwards,

reaching more than 7 tonnes of product seized in 2011.

As had already been the case in 2010, the United States is well ahead of other countries, not only in terms of the number of seizures made, but also the volume of products seized in 2011 (1,096 seizures for a total of 6,334 kg). The Asia/Pacific region is in second place with a total of 315 seizures involving an overall amount of 690 kg, although this is down on 2010.

The Western Europe and Middle East regions occupy the third and fourth places, respectively, but with the amounts seized being much lower than in 2010.

It should be noted that for the year 2011, in particular, 14 African countries emerged as source countries or transit countries for shipments of methamphetamines bound for the Asia/Pacific region. In descending order, these are Côte d'Ivoire (20 kg), South Africa (18 kg), Nigeria (17 kg), Benin (16 kg), Mali (8 kg), Senegal (7 kg), Mozambique (5 kg), Cameroon (5 kg), Ghana (4 kg), Burundi (4 kg), Burkina Faso (3 kg), Kenya (3 kg), Togo (1 kg) and Gambia (1 kg).

Therefore, methamphetamine shipments coming from "Africa" and heading to the Asia/Pacific region can be considered as an emerging trend.

Khat is mainly grown in East Africa (Somalia and Kenya) and in the Arabian Peninsula. The legal status of khat is not standard across Europe. It is legally exported mainly to the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, countries which do not consider this drug to be illegal. Secondary distribution then takes place from these countries, chiefly to Scandinavia and the United States.

The number of Customs seizures involving khat has continuously fallen from 2009 onwards, with the quantities seized in 2011 nevertheless being 8 % higher than in 2010, amounting to almost 72 tonnes.

With regard to secondary distribution coun-



» **247 kg of cocaine, Dunkirk (Rouen coast guard).** On 17 July 2011, officers from the Boulogne-Sur-Mer patrol boat, assisted by officers from the Dunkirk special intervention unit (BSI) after a ship coming from Maracaibo (Venezuela) had been flagged by Rouen maritime CROC, proceeded to monitor a cargo ship declared as transporting coal. The final destination of the cargo ship coming from Venezuela was France.

After discovering 11 kg of cocaine split among five DHL packages under the berth of an unoccupied cabin, the officers followed up with a search of the tiller room and seized a further 247 kg hidden in seven cloth bags suspended by snap hooks to the bars of the service ladder over the rudder well (an opening in the roof of a ship where the rudder shaft goes through and to which the tiller is attached), located towards the stern of the ship.

(Photos courtesy of France Customs)



tries, what is also clear is that the volume of khat coming from European countries has remained relatively stable.

As in 2009 and 2010, the ranking of secondary distribution countries in Europe is as follows: the Netherlands with 27,747 kg, Denmark with 13,096 kg, Sweden with 4,232 kg and the United Kingdom with 3,643 kg.

As was the case in 2010, the United Kingdom remains the main source for khat shipments intercepted in the United States.

It is interesting to note that 92 % of khat seizures and 87 % of the total volume intercepted took place in the postal packages or express packages sector with an average amount of 50 kg per package.



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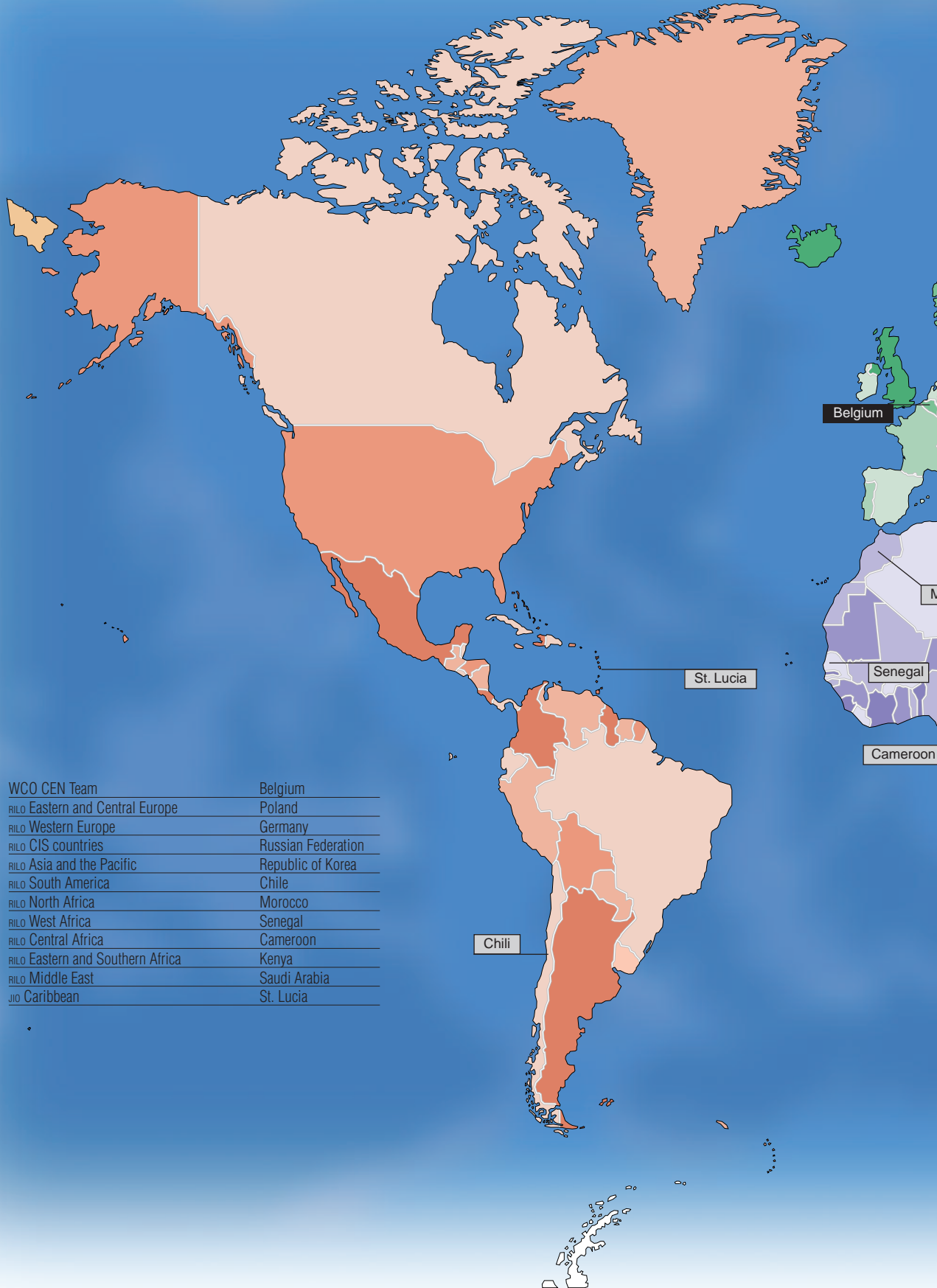
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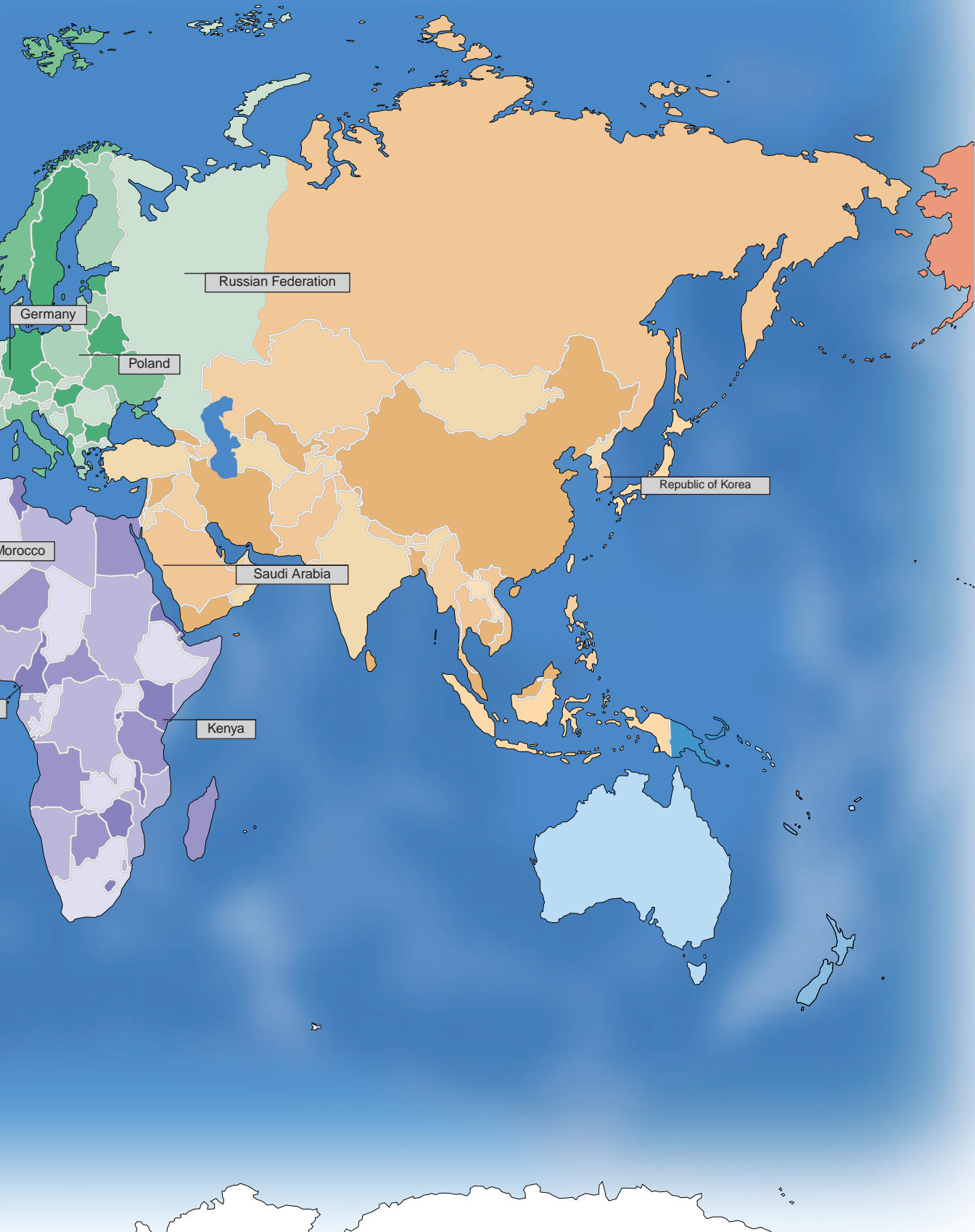
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WCO Mission Statement

The World Customs Organization is internationally acknowledged as the global centre of Customs expertise and plays a leading role in the discussion, development, promotion and implementation of modern and secure Customs systems and procedures. It is responsive to the needs of its Members and its strategic environment, and its instruments and best-practice approaches are recognized as the basis for sound Customs administration throughout the world.

WCO Vision Statement

The World Customs Organization is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Member Customs administrations, thereby assisting them to contribute successfully to national development goals, particularly in the areas of trade facilitation, revenue collection, community protection and national security.

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