



PERMANENT TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE

-
217th/218th Sessions

-
17 – 20 October 2017

Brussels, 20 September 2017.

E-COMMERCE

**d) Update of the Immediate Release Guidelines (IRG)
(Item X on the Agenda)**

Background

1. The Immediate Release Guidelines (IRG) were updated by the PTC in 2014. Given the ongoing discussions in the WCO Working Group on E-Commerce (WGEC) and new developments in the international supply chain, there is an opportunity to consider the possibility of updating the IRG to incorporate specific elements supporting the growing E-Commerce.
2. The WGEC and its four Sub-Groups (Trade Facilitation and Simplification of Procedures; Safety and Security; Revenue Collection; and Measurement and Analysis) are currently engaged in finalizing the work associated with respective themes from both a facilitation and an enforcement perspective. One of the related activities is the update of the Immediate Release Guidelines. A preliminary draft updated IRG has been developed by the Secretariat (See docs. EM_Annex_Clean_E and EM_Annex_Track_Changes_E as annex II) and has been submitted to the recent meeting of the WGEC for inputs and recommendations (See Doc. EM0015E as annex I).
3. Following the discussions at the WGEC, the draft updated IRG is submitted to the PTC for further inputs and comments. The finalized updated version of the IRG is expected to be presented to the WGEC during the April 2018 Meeting and to be endorsed by the PTC during its April 2018 sessions.

Action required

4. Delegates are invited to:
- consider the preliminary draft updated IRG adapted to the E-Commerce environment and suggest areas for further enhancement;
 - examine the data elements and provide suggestions on their potential adjustments in accordance with the WCO Data Model; and
 - share national experiences for their possible inclusion in the final version of the updated IRG.

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