



Brussels, 11 September 2018.

ADVANCED PASSENGER INFORMATION / PASSENGER NAME RECORD (API/PNR)

- o Reconstitution of the Membership of the API/PNR Contact Committee

(Item XI on the Agenda)

I. Introduction

1. The World Customs Organization (WCO) / International Air Transport Association (IATA) /International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Contact Committee on Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) was established so that the WCO/IATA/ICAO Guidelines on API and other instruments and tools developed by the Contact Committee could be jointly managed and maintained by the three Organizations. As these Guidelines and other instruments and tools, support the effort to counter trans-national crimes, including but not limited to, drug smuggling, contraband, money laundering, as well as, terrorism whilst facilitating passengers movements, the Contact Committee was established to discuss and carry out timely changes to the respective Guidelines, instruments and tools. This Contact Committee reports to the WCO Permanent Technical Committee (PTC), the IATA Passenger Service Conference and the ICAO Secretary General.
2. Advance passenger data, i.e. the API and PNR has been used as one of the main tools by Customs and other border control agencies to facilitate and control the flow of passengers and goods carried by them.
3. The advance passenger data enable Customs and border control agencies to receive passenger related data prior to the arrival of passengers to the destination, and where applicable, transiting countries, and perform risk assessment based on the available information to identify high risk travellers and determine appropriate control actions that may be needed to be performed upon the arrival of the identified passengers. This mechanism enables Customs and border control agencies to selectively and less intrusively perform their passenger control tasks in an effective manner, and at the same time facilitate legitimate passenger flows.
4. Customs administrations use the advance passenger information to address other trans-national Customs offences, such as drug smuggling, and contraband, as well as money laundering. In addition, advance passenger data is also used to address

passenger security risks, such as identifying the flow and the returning of foreign terrorist fighter (FTF) and other violent extremists.

II. Membership of API PNR Contact Committee

5. The Membership of the API PNR Contact Committee is comprised of the key stakeholders involved in the exchange of advance passenger data. The WCO and the ICAO represent Governments that require the advance passenger data. The IATA represent Airlines that has the role to collect passenger information in their normal business operation and submit them to relevant government authorities. The composition of the membership help ensure coordination between these key stakeholders in performing their roles efficiently.
6. At its 11th Meeting in November 2017, the Contact Committee approved a revision to its Terms of Reference (ToR). In the revised ToR, the membership of the Contact Committee, from Customs side, has been raised from four to eighteen members. In addition, the Contact Committee agreed that the term of the Membership would be set to three years. These changes aim at making the membership structure more robust to efficiently support the work of the Contact Committee in a sustainable and scalable manner, engaging larger membership.
7. The revised ToR have been endorsed by the WCO Council in June 2018. Following the endorsement of the ToR, the Secretariat invited the WCO Regional Vice-Chairs to nominate up to a maximum of three Members to represent their region at the API / PNR Contact Committee. The Secretariat has received the following nominations per region:
 - Asia / Pacific:
 - o Australia;
 - o India; and
 - o Japan.
 - West and Central Africa:
 - o Mali;
 - o Cameroon; and
 - o Ghana.
8. The newly constituted Members will be invited to attend the upcoming API PNR Contact Committee in January 2019.

III. Future work of the API PNR Contact Committee

9. The work of the Contact Committee, as guided by its ToR, will be focused on further enhancing the Guidelines and tools related to advance passenger data by reflecting new developments and opportunities. Some of the work that is underway include:
 - enhancing data quality, to ensure that information used for risk assessment is reliable and could produce accurate results, inter alia by:
 - o engaging the airline industry to look at the possibility of improving their business process that could improve data quality during passenger data collection processes;
 - o establishing linkage between PNR and API data;
 - o enhancing API and PNR data exchange technical specifications;

- elaborating and promoting the implementation of Interactive API (iAPI), in addition to the commonly implemented Batch API;
- exploring the implementation of advance passenger data in other mode of transports (e.g., maritime and road);
- promoting interagency cooperation, while maintaining the role of Customs in using advance passenger data.

IV. Action Required

10. The PTC is invited to:
- Consider and approve the composition of nominated Members of the API PNR Contact Committee; and
 - provide policy guidance on the future work of the API PNR Contact Committee;
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