



PERMANENT
TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE

PC0538E1a

INCLUDING THE JOINT
SESSION WITH THE 11TH
MEETING OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON
THE WTO TRADE
FACILITATION
AGREEMENT

-
223rd/224th Sessions

-
5 - 8 March 2019

Brussels, 30 January 2019

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

(Item II. on the Agenda)

Introduction

1. This Summary Document (SD) provides an overview of the subjects to be discussed and the actions expected from the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC) including the joint session with the 11th meeting of the Working Group on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The objective of the SD is to provide more predictable guidance to the delegates on topics of focus and where input from Members is expected.
2. In line with the above mentioned, the Secretariat produced a SD for this meeting's sessions, based on the draft agenda and taking into account the proposal of the Correspondence Group on the Future of the PTC to have the items/sub-items classified into four different categories (A, B, C and D) :

A. [Report Back on Work in Progress;](#)

The report back items include discussion of the work of the various sub-groups and committees reporting to the PTC, as well as work undertaken by the Secretariat. The discussion on these items will be a short process. The agenda items will be supported by the respective papers of the various sub-committees, committees and working groups of the PTC, as well as other

papers produced by the Secretariat or oral reports. Members will be expected to have read through the papers and will be given an opportunity to pose any questions or to launch a relevant discussion.

B. Decision and Guidance;

These items will include discussions on work of the various sub-groups and committees reporting to the PTC, and on work undertaken by the Secretariat. The aim of this section will be to facilitate the provision of guidance and/or the delivery of decisions that will enable this work to progress.

C. Exploration and progression of Key Technical Issues;

These items will allow primarily for discussion of key (technical) issues, which Members and observers are facing, ideally common across a number of Members and/or regions. The time allotted to these items will be sufficient to allow for active participation by all delegates in fully exploring the issues raised.

D. Fostering Innovation in Customs Practice;

This block of items will allow for the discussion of innovative practices in progress within member administrations/regions and observers. The principal aim will be to provide the meeting with information and awareness of innovation within Customs.

3. In addition to a summary of the background and expectations, an indication of whether the item is an A, B, C or D type, has been indicated next to each agenda item below.

I. Opening address by Deputy Secretary General ----- “B”

4. Deputy Secretary General will offer the opening address to the joint session of the PTC and TFAWG. Delegates will have the opportunity to engage with the Deputy Secretary General to comment on his speech and ask questions.

II. Adoption of the Agenda and the Summary Document----- “B”

Document: PC0537

Document: PC0538

5. The Secretariat has in consultation with the Chairperson prepared a Draft Agenda. The Secretariat has also prepared a Summary Document with the objective of which is to provide the delegates with clear and concise information on the substance of agenda items and guidance on the actions required from the PTC.
6. The adoption of the Draft Agenda and the Summary Document giving delegates the opportunity to suggest changes or additional topics for discussion.

7. The PTC is invited to adopt the Draft Agenda (Doc. PC0537) and the Summary Document (Doc. PC0538).

III-a. Break Out Session – Time Release Study----- “C”

Document: PT0092

- Presentation(s) of national experience(s)
8. Under this item, the joint session of the TFAWG and PTC will be able to share experiences and outcomes of their TRS activities including in terms of using TRS for monitoring TFA implementation. In order to receive as many experiences as possible from the Members, the presentation(s) will be followed by a break out session for further discussion.

III-b. Plenary session (report from the break-out groups) – Time Release Study----- “A”

9. The two break-out groups will report on their findings to the plenary session.

IV. Performance Measurement----- “B”

- WCO Comprehensive performance measurement tools
 - Collection and analyses of data
 - Cooperation with World Bank Group (update)
- Document: SP0661
Document: SP0671
Document: PT0093
10. At the 80th Policy Commission Meeting Members discussed on the links between performance measurement and monitoring of implementation of WCO instruments and tools, as well as the development of a Performance Measurement tool for Customs administrations. The Secretariat will inform the delegates about the ongoing work on this.
11. In addition, under this item TFAWG and PTC will have the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on the development of a Performance Measurement tool for Customs administrations. The Secretariat will inform the TFAWG and PTC on the cooperation with the WB on Doing Business by providing an update of the outcome of the Policy Commission and follow-up actions.
12. Following the discussion in the Policy Commission, the new draft version of the Terms of Reference of the proposed Working Group on Performance Measurement will be discussed. More information is available in the December 2018 Policy Commission document and the report of the meeting.

V. Coordinated Border Management----- “B”

- o eCITES - end-to-end regulatory control of international trade in endangered species

13. At its 70th meeting held in October 2018, the CITES Standing Committee recommended to the CITES Conference of Parties to start a work programme on integration of CITES into paperless Customs clearance processes and risk management and to work with relevant partners, such as WCO, on the development of standards and solutions for electronic permit information exchange and validation as well as on the implementation of efficient risk based procedures for control in CITES listed species using information technologies and modern trade control procedures.
14. CITES Secretariat will inform the TFAWG and PTC about this initiative. The TFAWG and PTC will be invited to take note of this initiative and to provide further guidance on WCO’s possible contribution to this work.

VI. Availability of Trade Information on the Internet (Art. 1.2 TFA) and Enquiry points (Art. 1.3) ----- “C”

- a) Global Trade Helpdesk (GTH), presentation by ITC
- b) Integrated enquiry points, Member’s experience

Document: PT0094

15. Global Trade Helpdesk (GTH) is a multi-agency response to the information gap in global trade – a one-stop shop for business and policy makers to access trade data and practical information about target markets.
16. The GTH was launched during the WTO MC11 in December 2017 by the ITC, WTO and UNCTAD together with the implementing agencies including the WCO. The WCO supports this initiative and works with the other stakeholders in further developing the GTH.
17. In addition, the TFAWG and PTC will have an opportunity to hear about a Member’s experience on the development of an integrated enquiry point.

VIII. Any Other Business----- “B”

18. Delegates will have an opportunity to discuss topics in addition to the ones listed in the agenda.

X. Update and reports - 1.”A”items for decision----- “B”

- 4.

- a)** Report from the 75th Meeting of the Information management Sub-Committee (29-30 October 2018)
- WCO Data Model Business Guide
 - Update of the WCO Data Model – Data Maintenance Procedure
- b)** Report from the 38th Meeting of the WCO/UPU Contact Committee (14-16 November 2018)
- Joint WCO–UPU guidelines on the exchange of electronic advance data (EAD) between Posts and Customs
- c)** Report from the 12th Meeting of the WCO/IATA/ICAO API/PNR Contact Committee (22-23 January 2019)
- Terms of Reference of the API/PNR Contact Committee

Document: PM0468
 Document: PC0549
 Document: PU0196
 Document: PS0090

19. Update and reports is a standing PTC agenda item which groups together “A”-items, namely reports from different WCO working bodies or from the Secretariat. Some of them require approval (sub-items under 1.). *In addition, the Data Model Projects Team (DMPT) has approved a draft update of the WCO Data Model - Data Maintenance Procedure at its meeting in January 2019 to make it more robust and inclusive. The PTC will be requested to approve the updated procedure, if appropriate.*

X. Update and reports - 2.”A”items for information----- “A”

- d)** Inter-sessional developments
- e)** Report from the 20th Meeting of the SAFE Working Group (17-19 October 2018)
- f)** Report from the 10th Meeting of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation Working Group (22-23 October 2018)
- g)** Report from the 19th Meeting of the Revised Kyoto Convention Management Committee (12-13 November 2018)
- h)** Report from the 4th Meeting of the Technical Experts Group on Non-Intrusive Inspection (13-14 December 2018)
- i)** Report from the 80th Session of the Policy Commission (3-5 December 2018)

Document: PC0539
 Document: LF0191
 Document: PT_10th_TFA_Executive_Summary
 Document: PO0115

20. While the majority are for notetaking (sub-items under 2.). However, delegates may raise any issue or launch a relevant discussion, if required.

X. Update and reports – 3.”B” items----- “B”

- j)* Report from the 15th Meeting of the WCO Counterfeiting and Piracy (CAP) Group (6-7 December 2018)

- Terms of Reference of the CAP Group

- k)* Update from the meeting of the Brussels-based Attaches Working Group on Cruise Ships (26 November 2018)

Document: TR0057
Document: PC0540

21. Update and reports this time also includes a number of “B” items (under 3) that will require more time for discussion. Update and reports this time also includes a number of “B” items (under 3) that will require more time for discussion.

XI. Future of Customs----- “D”

a) Draft Study Report on Disruptive Technologies

b) Blockchain: policy and legal considerations, interoperability, standardization and governance model – Round table discussion

Document: PC0541
Document: PC0542

c) Presentations by Members

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22. The objective of the Study Report on Disruptive Technologies is to raise awareness within the Customs community of the latest technologies and their potentials, by firstly demystifying each of them individually and providing practical examples and use cases, but also by sharing some more aspirational and innovative propositions on their use in the future.

23. The first draft was presented at the April 2018 PTC when the Meeting agreed on the objectives and the structure of the Study Report and to continue exploring the topics and collecting experiences to be included before the next PTC meeting in March 2019.
24. The version that is now being put forward to the PTC is an updated one and includes new chapters and use cases. The PTC will be invited to endorse the Study Report.
25. A roundtable on blockchain will take place to discuss the policy and legal considerations, interoperability, governance, data protection and standardization. The PTC will be invited to provide guidance on this matter.

XII. Data Analytics----- “D”

- a) Data analytics and applied to Customs

Document: PC0543

- b) The Presentation by Member

26. This item will discuss the last developments and questions relating to the use of data analytics achieved or observed by the Secretariat at the technical and policy levels. The Secretariat will make a short introduction and one Member will present its strategy to introduce and use data science within the administration (strategy, recruitment, topics addressed by data science).
27. The PTC will be invited to discuss on how to launch a regional or global dynamics to foster the use of data by Customs.

XIII. Geodata for Customs----- “D”

- a) The use of geodata in Customs

Document: PC0544

- b) Presentation by Member

28. The PTC will be informed about the nature and uses of geospatial data by Customs administrations. The Secretariat will introduce and summarize the last research developments conducted with Members on GEOINT (Geospatial Intelligence). One external partner will present the potential and current uses by Customs and other border agencies.
29. The objective of the item is to raise awareness of Customs of the potentialities of geospatial data and respond to technical questions with the aim of demystifying its use.

XIV. WCO Theme of 2019 ----- “C”

- o SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport – Panel discussion

Document: PC0545

30. The WCO theme for 2019 is “SMART borders for seamless Trade, Travel and Transport”. SMART means that Customs should ensure that the following guiding principles are at the center of Customs compliance, enforcement and facilitation efforts: Secure, Measurable, Automated, Risk Management-based and Technology-driven.
31. Through a panel discussion, the PTC will identify the key features of SMART borders, examine critical implementation factors, and hear innovative practices/initiatives. Additionally, the PTC will provide guidance on future work on how Customs, in collaboration with partners government agencies and private sector stakeholders, can advance the agenda of SMART borders.

XVI. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)----- “B”

- a) How can Trade Facilitation and Customs support SDGs
- b) Presentation by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

Document: PC0546

32. The November 2017 Policy Commission was reported on Customs’ contribution to the UN’s SDGs 2030 by highlighting the links between the Goals and Customs’ strategic missions. The purpose of this agenda item is to provide a more in-depth analysis on how Customs can support global supply chains achieving environmental sustainability.
33. Furthermore, the PTC is invited to discuss and provide guidance on the opportunity to review current tools and instruments and decide if there is a need to develop new guidance that will further support Members in facilitating supply chains from an environmental perspective.
34. The PTC will also hear the views of a representative of the UN-OHRLLS on this topic from a broader perspective including the ongoing work to support to Small Island Economies and potential opportunities for collaboration between the UN-OHLLS and the WCO.

XVII. Small Island Economies----- “B”

- o State of play regarding the development of a guidance for Customs administrations of Small Island Economies

Document: SP0671

35. The November 2018 PTC had discussed the topic of Small Island Economies (SIEs), following a high-level panel discussion on challenges and peculiarities of Customs administrations of SIEs.

36. The Secretariat will orally report on the discussions held during the December 2018 Policy Commission and the activities conducted so far including the regional Workshops, as well as provide an update on the development of the envisaged Guidance for Customs administrations of SIEs based on the draft outline approved by the December 2018 Policy Commission.
37. The PTC will be requested to take note of the work done and provide further guidance on the development of the envisaged guidance for Customs administrations in SIEs.

XVIII. Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP)----- “B”

- o Priorities for updating the WCO instruments and tools under the ECP
Document: SP0653
38. The WCO provides continuous dynamic support to Members regarding the harmonized and efficient implementation of the TFA by means of the various WCO instruments and tools.
39. In addition to long-standing WCO instruments and tools, the WCO, under the framework of “Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP)”, has developed and will continue to develop, maintain and update various instruments and tools that support Members in trade facilitation and security measures.
40. The PTC will have an opportunity to discuss and provide guidance on the priorities for updating the WCO instruments and tools, especially in the context of TFA implementation. More information on the ECP is available on the WCO web site (<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/key-issues/ecp-latest-proposal.aspx>) and in the December 2018 Policy Commission document.

XIX. Special Customs Zones----- “B”

- a) Results of field studies and workshops on Special Customs Zones
 - b) Development of a study report and WCO guidance material on Special Customs zone
Document: PC0547
Document: SP0671
41. The Secretariat will orally report on the outcomes of discussions on Special Customs Zones (SCZs) in the December 2018 Policy Commission and the ongoing activities conducted so far including the research and field work in various SCZs, as well as provide a possible outline of a study report and WCO guidance material on SCZs.

XX. Customs laboratories and strategic review of the HS----- “C”

- a) The role of Customs laboratories
- b) Strategic review of the HS

Document: PC0548

- 42. Customs laboratories are valuable resources. Maximizing the return on the investment in laboratory facilities is key to ensuring that their role as a Customs resource continues and grows.
- 43. The PTC will be informed about the latest developments and challenges in this area and is expected to open a discussion on the role of Customs laboratories. The PTC will be invited to give feedback on the topic and guidance on future actions to enhance the utilization of laboratories in the modern Customs environment.
- 44. The PTC will also be updated on the developments regarding a strategic review of the Harmonized System (HS) in light of the evolution of the global supply chain and users' needs.

XXI. Integrity----- “D”

- a) Customs-business partnership and the Collective Action Concept in combatting corruption
 - b) Presentation by the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN)
- 45. The lack of Integrity in Customs can distort trade and investment opportunities and undermine public trust in government administration. To this effect, the WCO has developed a robust integrity programme that aims to support Customs administrations in their efforts to improve integrity and devise effective strategies to fight against corruption.
 - 46. The strategy includes development of tools, providing technical assistance and strong advocacy for partnerships particularly with the private sector as set out in the Revised Arusha Declaration (principle 10). The term “collective action” is often used by Development partners, the private sector and civil society to refer to an approach that seeks to combat corruption “differently”.
 - 47. The PTC will be informed about the concept of collective action, as a form of Customs-business partnership, applicable in the context of enhancing integrity and combatting corruption in Customs.
 - 48. A private sector organization will share its experience in implementation of the Collective action concept including practical measures taken in collaboration with Customs to prevent corrupt behavior, promote integrity and how it increased the level of trade facilitation.

XXII. Elections ----- “B”

- o Elections of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the PTC

49. The PTC elects a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson each year. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are elected for a period of one year and are eligible for re-election.
50. The PTC will be invited to elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson amongst its delegates, for the 2019/2020 financial year.

XXIII. Any other business----- “B”

- a) Proposals for agenda items for the next PTC meeting
- b) Upcoming events
51. As is the current practice in every meeting, the PTC will be provided with an opportunity to suggest agenda items for the next PTC meeting. Ideally, the delegates will put forward non paper(s) to support their proposal(s).
52. Under the same item, the Secretariat will also provide an update on the WCO events and meetings. Delegates are encouraged to share any information on upcoming workshops, seminars, conferences or other relevant meetings of interest to PTC delegates.
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