



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

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Créée en 1952 sous le nom de Conseil de coopération douanière

PERMANENT TECHNICAL  
COMMITTEE

PC0558Ea

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225<sup>th</sup>/226<sup>th</sup>  
Sessions

-  
28 - 31 October 2019

Brussels, 19 September 2019.

**UPDATE AND REPORTS**

**Inter-sessional developments**

**(Item IV. (a) on the Agenda)**

**Introduction & Background**

1. The Committee is invited to take note of developments primarily under the WCO packages since the last PTC sessions and to consider their potential influence on the PTC's future work. Thus, this document aims to compile such developments that would be relevant to the PTC, but are not otherwise covered under other PTC agenda items of this meeting.
2. Considering that the Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP) has been included under this PTC (Agenda item - XIV) and will be discussed in detail, the information regarding that package has been excluded from this document.

**Revenue Package**

3. The Revenue Package, developed in response to Members' concerns over declining revenue returns in the context of the global financial crisis of 2008 and falling duty rates, has the following high-level aim :

*To help Members improve the efficiency and effectiveness of revenue collection, in compliance with rules, standards and guidelines laid down in relevant international agreements, conventions and supporting tools and instruments.*

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4. Following the conclusion of Phase III, the Secretariat had prepared a draft proposal for Phase IV of the Revenue Package. This proposal was submitted to the Working Group on Revenue Compliance and Fraud (WGRCF) which has the mandate for supporting the implementation. The Phase IV Revenue Package Action Plan was updated and finalized, based on the input and guidance provided by the WGRCF, and was endorsed by the Policy Commission and the Council in June 2019.
5. The Action Plan for Phase IV is divided into two parts. Part I is aimed at assisting Members apply the existing tools, while Part 2 aims to further enhance the package.  
  
Part 1 - Promoting and applying the Revenue Package tools developed under previous Phases by Members;  
Part 2 - Development of new materials and initiatives.
6. Work has already started and proposals will be discussed at the Working Group for Revenue Compliance and Fraud meetings regarding the implementation of Phase IV of the Revenue Package.

#### **Compliance and Enforcement Package**

7. The Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP) was developed and subsequently endorsed at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Enforcement Committee. It was adopted at the 121<sup>st</sup>/122<sup>nd</sup> Sessions of the Council in June 2013. The CEP contains all of the different types of WCO instruments and programmes which currently exist and aim to address Customs enforcement high-risk areas. The toolkit is composed of four main components: tools, networks and technology, partnerships, and operations. These components have been designed to support the application of modern compliance and enforcement techniques.
8. The development of an Action Plan for the CEP was also agreed by the Enforcement Committee and Council. The CEP Action Plan is to be reviewed on a yearly basis by the Enforcement Committee, and subsequently presented to the Policy Commission and Council for endorsement.
9. To date five action plans for the financial years 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 were endorsed by the relevant sessions of the Policy Commission and Council.
10. A new draft Action Plan for 2019/2020 was prepared by the Secretariat and examined by Members at the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Enforcement Committee in March 2019. The Committee endorsed the Action Plan.
11. The CEP Action Plan for 2019/2020 stipulates tangible actions which contribute to the accomplishment of the CEP goals. It indicates deadlines where appropriate and shows the bodies responsible for the implementation of specific actions. Thirty-one actions were included, divided into the four main components consistent with the CEP toolkit. An additional cluster of detailed operational activities and projects was also added.

12. The following provides an overall summarized update on progress to date on the implementation of the current CEP Action Plan :

### **I. Component 1 – Tools**

- Promote the CEP toolkit globally, regionally and nationally as part of ongoing WCO enforcement-related activities and collect best practices on compliance and enforcement
- A new CEP Regional Workshop for Europe took place 23 - 27 September 2019.
- Develop and publish the WCO Illicit Trade Report - 2018 Edition partnered with the Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS).
- Further develop and implement the COPES Program and related tools in line with its Project Plan. A global COPES train-the-trainer accreditation workshop took place at the WCO headquarters from 16 - 20 September 2019.
- Finalize the Risk Management Maturity Model to be incorporated into the Risk Management Compendium.
- Develop practical guidance on environmental protection.
- Develop a complete set of Customs Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) training materials.
- Develop a handbook on legal basis for information-sharing on excise and related offences.
- Develop and implement a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Network on illicit tobacco.
- Develop an IPR Customs Training Handbook.
- Develop a self-assessment tool for IPR.
- Develop a practical guide for the environmentally sustainable destruction of seized good.
- Completion of Version 2 of WCO STCE Implementation Guide.
- Further develop, update and promote Programme Global Shield and its related tools.
- Develop the WCO FinCRIME On-line Library in furtherance of Customs-based money laundering awareness.
- Development of FIU-Customs Cooperation Handbook.

### **II. Component 2 - Networks and Technology**

- Develop an IPR CENcomm closed user-group.
- Maintain/improve WCO “Iris” application [Customs information map and database (including seizure notices)].
- Review the status and functionality of the Technology Network (TeN).
- Maintain the ARCHEO, GTEN and ENVIRONET platforms to enhance their capabilities and promote wider use.
- Implement the CTS application according to Members’ needs and in line with the CTS Project plan.
- Promote the implementation of nCEN amongst Members.
- Continue enhancing CENcomm to better support ongoing projects and operations.
- Promote the implementation of API/PNR Passenger Targeting and the Global Travel Assessment System (GTAS). GTAS is currently in the final stages of live implementation in the Maldives, Pakistan and Uganda.

### III. Component 3 - Partnerships

- Further cooperation with international shipping lines to increase the availability of pre-arrival cargo information for Members' risk assessment activities (through WCO CTS)
- Conduct high-level meetings as required with international law enforcement partners (e.g. INTERPOL, UNODC, etc.) to avoid operational overlaps and further the goal of enhancing coordinated border management
- Involve international law enforcement partners in relevant operational activities organized by the WCO to further operational interagency cooperation

### IV. Component 4 - Operations (projects and operational activities)

- Operation ATHENA II (organized by the WCO and INTERPOL, set to take place end of September until 11 October).
- Continue the delivery of regional and national trainings based on PITCH curriculum.
- Establish a virtual tobacco-focused expert group.
- NEPTUNE 2 (targeting the smuggling of bulk cash by terrorists).
- JUBILARIAN (targeting the misuse of ATA Carnets).
- LANDLOCK (targeting revenue leakage through transshipment of goods, took place from 15 June to 15 September).
- DOUBLETON (targeting the illicit trafficking of alcohol products).
- TENTACLE (targeting bulk-cash smuggling and trade-based money laundering, took place in June 2019).
- TRIGGER V
- Extension of Project SHOT (analysis of illicit trade in alcohol).
- Project LYNX (targeting cross border smuggling from Western Balkans, scheduled to take place 23-26 September).
- PANGEA XII (an INTERPOL global operation targeting the sale of counterfeit medicines online).
- Balkan Gate 2 (IPR).
- COCAIR VIII.
- AIRCOP.
- COLIBRI (targeting the movement of drugs through light aircraft aviation).
- CCP with over 169 training activities, private sector workshops and study visits on different types of techniques to enhance law enforcement agencies' capacities in the maritime and air cargo domains.
- THUNDERBALL (WCO-INTERPOL operation focused on disrupting IWT shipments and dismantling criminal networks and took place from 4 - 30 June 2019)
- SSHA 3 (joint Customs enforcement operation for combating smuggling of timber is scheduled for 1 November to 31 December).
- DEMETER V (operation focused on waste, took place from 2 - 30 September 2019).
- INAMA training in support of future illegal wildlife trade enforcement operation.
- Security project for West and Central Africa (PGS).
- Regional operation targeting explosive precursor chemicals and other IED components in the framework of WCO/JICA Project.
- A sub-regional operation targeting PGS in the framework of the Asia Pacific Security Project took place from 16 - 30 May 2019. Another operation, within Phase II of the project, is scheduled to take place in November 2019.

**Action required:**

13. The PTC delegates are invited to take note of the intersessional developments.
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