



Brussels, 23 August 2022.

PTC WORK PROGRAMME

- Revised PTC Work Programme 2022-2025 -

(Item XIV on the Agenda)

SUMMARY

Purpose of document

The PTC Work Programme 2022-2025 was tentatively endorsed by the PTC in April 2022 which would be further finalized after the approval of the WCO Strategic Plan 2022-2025, as required.

The Council approved the Strategic Plan 2022-2025, the Implementation Plan 2022-2023 and the PTC Work Programme 2022-2025 in June 2022. Furthermore, the template of work programmes for WCO working bodies has been revised based on the discussions at the Policy Commission in June 2022.

Therefore, the Draft Revised PTC Work Programme 2022-2025, including the progress made in its implementation, has been amended accordingly is being submitted to the PTC to take note, for discussion and endorsement.

Action required of the PTC

The PTC is invited to:

- take note of the progress on the implementation of the PTC Work Programme 2022-2025; and
- discuss and endorse the Revised PTC Work Programme 2022-2025.

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I. Introduction

1. The facilitation activities of the WCO were planned and monitored through a number of different mechanisms, including through the Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP) Action Plans and PTC Work Programmes over the past years.
2. The December 2021 Policy Commission (PC) discussed the way forward for the planning and monitoring of the activities of the Directorates and working bodies. It reflected on the proposal related to the replacement of the Packages' Action Plans with work programmes to be used by each WCO working body and endorsed the proposed template for the work programmes.
3. The draft PTC Work Programme (WP) 2022-2025, that would, in line with the guidance provided by the PC in December 2021, also replace a future ECP Action Plan, was submitted to the PTC in April 2022. It was drafted in line with the draft WCO SP 2022-2025 and draft Implementation Plan 2022-2023. Moreover, the relevant activities of the working bodies that have been closed during the course of the previous PTC WP, namely the Information Management Sub-Committee (IMSC), the Trade Facilitation Agreement Working Group (TFAWG) and the Working Group on E-Commerce (WGEC), have also been reflected in the draft WP.
4. The PTC WP 2022-2025 was tentatively endorsed by the PTC in April 2022 and by the Council in June 2022 which should be further finalized after the approval of the WCO Strategic Plan 2022-2025, as required.
5. The Council approved the Strategic Plan (SP) 2022-2025, the Implementation Plan (IP) 2022-2023 and the PTC WP 2022-2025 in June 2022. Furthermore, the template of work programmes for WCO working bodies has been revised based on the discussions at the Policy Commission in June 2022. Therefore, the Draft Revised PTC WP 2022-2025, including the progress made in its implementation, is being submitted to the PTC to take note, for discussion and endorsement.

II. Draft Revised PTC WP 2022-2025

6. The Draft Revised PTC WP 2022-2025 (Annex to this document) uses the revised template for the work programmes endorsed by the PC in June 2022. It is divided into two parts:
 - I. Activities undertaken within a specific timeframe; and
 - II. Activities undertaken continuously.
7. In addition to the already existing columns in the current WP, there is a new column on "Priority ranking". This column includes the priority ranking of each activity as A=High, B=Medium and C=Low.

8. Moreover, it also includes new activities proposed in line with the priorities/activities determined by WCO's IP 2022/2023, approved by the PC and Council in June 2022; such as activity number 29 in Part I and activities number 8 and 18 in Part II.
9. The timeframes of some activities have been updated to align them with the timelines in the IP 2022/2023; such as activities number 7 and 9 in Part I of the WP.
10. Additionally, as the COVID-19 Project has been extended until June 2023, new activities proposed under this project, such as activity number 28 in Part I and activity number 24 in Part II of the draft WP, are also reflected.
11. There are five activities removed from Part I of the PTC WP. Concerning activity number 14, work on strategic foresight is coordinated under the responsibility of the Deputy Secretary General and is materialized through the Environmental Scan. In this regard, the next Environmental Scan will be carried out during financial year 2023/2024 in the context of the preparation of the Strategic Plan for 2025-2028. Given its strategic and high-policy nature, this work will be exclusively presented to the Policy Commission and Council. The PTC will continue to work on the future of Customs focusing on matters related to disruptive technologies. Activity number 30, concerning the development of a potential tool/guidance on building data analytics capacities, is recommended to be removed from the draft PTC WP, noting that the same has been suggested under the SAFE Working Group draft WP 2022-2025. The main rationale behind such proposal is related to deficiency of resources and maturity of this topic, however the activity can be re-included in the next PTC WP, subject to availability of resources and maturity of the topic. Activities number 10, 11 and 12 related to the WCO Data Strategy were removed from the PTC Work Program as they are not considered under the responsibility of the PTC. Activity number 10, on unified WCO Data Portal, is under the responsibility of the WCO Information Systems and Telecommunications Service (ISTS) as part of the redevelopment of the WCO website. Activity number 11, research paper on privacy technology, is under the responsibility of the Research Unit. Activity number 12, on development of a global anonymized dataset/sandbox, will be carried out by the Working Group on Data and Statistics (DSWG), which will report to the Policy Commission, in collaboration with the WCO Technical Experts Group on Non-Intrusive Inspection (TEG-NII). These and other Data Strategy-related activities, such as the harmonization of Customs statistical data, in collaboration between the Data Model Projects Team (DMPT) and the SDWG, will be monitored by the PTC through continuous activity number 26 in Part II of the PTC Work Programme.
12. There are also a few editorial changes and edits proposed to reflect the current situation in the draft WP, including the activity numbers.
13. To facilitate the review of the document, all edits and amendments have been reflected in track changes.
14. To sum up, the Draft Revised PTC WP 2022-2025 includes 81 activities: 29 activities in Part I and 52 activities in Part II; which is three activities less in Part I and three activities more in Part II compared to the current WP.

III. Progress in implementing the Draft PTC Work Programme 2022-2025

15. The draft revised PTC WP 2022-2025 in its "Progress" column contains information on the progress achieved under the respective activities since the beginning of the WP period.

Moreover, the “Completion status” column in Part I of the WP, indicates the colour code (green for ‘completed’, blue for ‘in progress’ and red for ‘postponed or not started’) that aims to reflect the state of play of the activity at the time of the reporting.

16. For a number of activities, the ‘Progress’ column also reflects the progress achieved under the respective activities, in the April-June 2022 period, after the previous reporting to the PTC in April 2022.

IV. Action required from the PTC

17. The PTC is invited to:
 - take note of the progress on the implementation of the PTC Work Programme 2022-2025; and
 - discuss and endorse the Revised PTC Work Programme 2022-2025.

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