

Statements received in writing from Members regarding discussions under PTC Agenda Item II – Adoption of the Agenda ¹

- **Norway**

“Regarding the severe negative impact on vital customs technical issues, as a direct cause of Russia’s unprovoked and illegal aggression against Ukraine, Norway see Russia’s actions as a violation of the vision and values underpinning WCO cooperation.

We stand with a number of other WCO members in supporting Ukraine.”

- **Kosovo**

“Kosovo expresses gratitude to Ukraine for its intervention and echoes the sentiments by other members, in support of Ukraine. The Russian Federation’s aggression, supported by the Republic of Belarus, towards Ukraine, a member of the World Customs Organization, is deemed a violation against civilian populations, infrastructure, and the operations of a fellow Member of the World Customs Organization. The Republic of Kosovo stands in full solidarity and support with Ukraine.”

- **Ukraine**

“Dear Chair, dear Colleagues

We refer to 2022 Council Conclusions which condemned any acts of aggression on the Customs borders and called for enhancement of Customs cooperation. Contrary to this Russia supported by Belarus continue military attacks on the Customs territory of Ukraine. The war seriously affects the ability of Ukrainian Customs to operate as usual.

Devastating Customs implications of the Russian war are as follows:

- Russian army is shelling Ukrainian cross-border points and critical infrastructure.
- Half of Ukrainian Customs border points are closed due to combat actions
- All airports are closed. Russian Navy blocks all seaports
- No trade and no free trade regime exist between Ukraine and aggressors
- The WCO Regional Training Centers in Ukraine are in danger
- Russia attempted to annex 20% of Ukrainian Customs territory

The WCO was established for bringing Customs together for a safer and more prosperous world. Instead, the Russian war destroys Ukraine’s customs borders; ruins Ukraine’s customs infrastructure; undermines security at borders and disrupts global trade supply chains. This is not compatible with the WCO principles.

¹ In the order in which the WCO Secretariat received the statements.

We thank our partner countries for the support to Ukrainian Customs. We ask all Customs administrations to demand that Russia follows Council conclusions of 2022 and stops ruining international Customs cooperation.

Thank you!.”

- **Belarus**

“The State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus is convinced that the WCO should retain the status of a purely professional platform for dialogue between customs administrations. The last two meetings of the WCO Council confirmed that this idea is backed by the majority of Members.

We call on the WCO Member States and Secretariat to eliminate politicization of the Organization”

- **United Kingdom**

“The UK fully supports Ukraine’s statement. Russia’s illegal invasion and the ongoing armed conflict have seriously undermined the effectiveness of Ukraine Customs, not least by damaging or destroying Ukrainian Customs infrastructure.

Russian aggression therefore has grave implications for international Customs cooperation and border security worldwide, and so we call upon Russia to end its invasion and withdraw its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine immediately.”

- **Japan**

“Japan would like to express our full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We also call on Russian Federation and Republic of Belarus to cease any actions undermining the spirit of the WCO, which is to promote cooperation between Customs administrations as stipulated in the preamble of the Convention Establishing a Customs Cooperation Council.”

- **European Union**

“The European Union and its Member States reiterate in the strongest possible terms our condemnation of the Russian Federation’s illegal, unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine, supported by the Republic of Belarus, as being a flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter. It not only disrupts global security, supply chains and stability, but also undermines international trust-based cooperation on customs matters. It is therefore fundamentally contrary to the nature, values and objectives of the World Customs Organization (WCO). We urge the Russian Federation to immediately cease its war of aggression and respect Ukraine’s internationally recognized borders, only then will it be possible to rebuild today’s disrupted international customs cooperation with the participation of the Russian Customs. The EU and its Member States stand in solidarity with Ukraine and its people.”

- **New Zealand**

“NZ supports the statement of Ukraine.

Aotearoa New Zealand joins others in condemning the illegal, unprovoked and unjustified attack by Russia on Ukraine. It is grave breach of international rules, and it is inconsistent with the

purpose and principles of the World Customs Organization, and in particular the principles of cooperation, harmonisation and facilitation which we are here at Permanent Technical Committee to work on together.

Our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine and our Ukrainian Customs colleagues and we stand in full solidarity with Ukraine. Thank you.”

- **Belgium**

“Belgium strongly supports the statements of the EU and its Member States and other WCO members against the war of aggression targeting Ukraine. We stand with the people of Ukraine and condemn the ongoing aggression of the Russian Federation, with help from Belarus, against this country. This hostile military action from one WCO member against another clearly stands in the way of customs cooperation.”

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