

ECP ACTION PLAN FOR PHASE III *

(January 2017 to December 2018)

1. Develop, manage and promote conventions, guidelines, standards and tools on trade security and facilitation

Bearing in mind the ever-changing trade and business environment, regular updates to existing WCO tools and instruments, as well as the development of new tools, are to be expected. In order to develop practical and useful instruments and tools for Members, examples of innovative practice will be collected from Members and shared on a continuous basis.

WCO Committees and Working Groups regularly review existing WCO tools and instruments on trade facilitation and security. For instance, the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) Management Committee has established a virtual working group to assess and explore the need to review the RKC, the TFA Working Group regularly discusses tools supporting the implementation of trade facilitation measures, and the SAFE Working Group has also produced new instruments.

In addition to the regular activities undertaken by the WCO working bodies, the ECP Action Plan for Phase III envisages further discussions on developing or refining certain WCO tools and instruments with a view to enhancing the economic competitiveness of WCO Members. These include : (1) Transit Guidelines, (2) Additional Guidance on Customs Brokers, (3) new Guidance on Inland Container Depots and Free Zones, and (4) new Guidance on Regional Integration.

	Action	Responsible body	Relevant Work Programme or Action Plan	Timeframe
1	Collect, analyse, and share examples of innovative practice	WCO Secretariat	Mercator Programme	December 2018
2	Develop new Transit Guidelines and organize a Global Conference on Transit	WCO Secretariat, PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	Mercator Programme, PTC Work Programme, TFA WG Work Programme	July 2017
3	Consider new Guidance on Regional Integration	WCO Secretariat, PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	PTC Work Programme	July 2018
4	Develop additional Guidance on Customs Brokers (e.g. optional use of brokers, compliance of brokers, enhancing cooperation including capacity building), based on the WCO Study Report on Customs Brokers and Members' experiences	WCO Secretariat, PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	Mercator Programme, PTC Work Programme	December 2018

	Action	Responsible body	Relevant Work Programme or Action Plan	Timeframe
5	Discuss the development of new Guidance on Special Customs Zones	WCO Secretariat, PTC, Virtual Working Group on the Future of Customs (VWG FC), other related WCO committees or working groups	Mercator Programme, PTC Work Programme	July 2017
6	Develop new WCO tools and instruments on trade security and facilitation (e.g. e-commerce, mutual recognition), based on Members' needs	WCO Secretariat, PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	Mercator Programme, PTC Work Programme, TFA WG Work Programme	December 2018
7	Refine existing WCO tools and instruments on trade security and facilitation (e.g. Immediate Release Guidelines), based on Members' needs	WCO Secretariat, PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	Mercator Programme, PTC Work Programme, TFA WG Work Programme	December 2018
8	Update/review TRS Guide	WCO Secretariat, PTC	Mercator Programme, PTC Work Programme, TFA WG Work Programme, Work Programme on Digital Customs	PTC April-July 2017
9	Develop new/update existing guidance on inward/outward processing and other procedures relevant for ensuring better connectedness to Global Value Chains, in particular by SMEs and developing countries	WCO Secretariat, PTC, VWG FC	Mercator Programme, PTC Work Programme	July 2017

2. Support effective implementation of WTO TFA provisions through use of WCO instruments, tools and assistance

In June 2014, the WCO launched the Mercator Programme to ensure the uniform implementation of the WTO TFA, using WCO instruments and tools, as most of the TFA provisions are related to Customs.

The WCO established the TFA Working Group, inviting Member Customs administrations, trade ministry representatives, international organizations relevant to border management, the private sector, academia and other stakeholders to participate. It has examined each Article of the TFA and developed new tools for the uniform implementation of the TFA provisions, drawing on existing WCO instruments, tools and examples of best practice from Members. The TFA Working Group has discussed how its own work programme can support the effective implementation of the WTO TFA provisions.

The ECP Action Plan for Phase III highlights the main points of action, but leaves concrete and detailed actions to the TFA Working Group and other relevant Committees.

	Action	Responsible body	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
10	Update and implement the TFA Working Group Work Programme	WCO Secretariat, TFA WG	Mercator Programme, TFA WG Work Programme, TFA WG Annual Work Plan	December 2018
11	Accredit and make optimal use of more Mercator Programme Advisors and Technical and Operational Advisors in the areas addressed by the TFA	WCO Secretariat, TFA WG, other relevant committees or working groups	Mercator Programme, TFA WG Work Programme, TFA WG Annual Work Plan	December 2018
12	Deliver tailor-made capacity building projects for TFA implementation	WCO Secretariat, TFA WG, other relevant committees or working groups	Mercator Programme, TFA WG Work Programme, TFA WG Annual Work Plan	December 2018

3. Promote accession to and implementation of the Revised Kyoto Convention

The RKC promotes trade facilitation and effective controls through its legal provisions that detail the application of simple yet efficient procedures. The principles laid down in the RKC are recognized as the core of the ECP.

	Action	Responsible body	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
13	Assess and further explore the need to review the RKC	RKC Management Committee	PTC Work Programme	December 2018
14	Capacity building to encourage more Members to accede to the RKC and to support the implementation of the RKC	WCO Secretariat	Mercator Programme	December 2018

4. Promote cooperation with other border agencies, and with other international organizations to enhance border efficiency and effectiveness

Coordinated Border Management (CBM) refers to ensuring a coordinated approach by border control agencies, both domestic and international, in order to seek greater efficiencies in managing trade and travel flows, while maintaining a balance with compliance requirements. It was used as the international Customs community's slogan in 2015. The WCO has already developed several tools in the area, such as the CBM Compendium and Guidance on National Committees on Trade Facilitation (NCTF). The SAFE Framework of Standards was revised to include Customs-to-other-Government-Agencies cooperation as its third Pillar in 2015.

Under the ECP Action Plan for Phase III, the WCO will strengthen its supporting activities for NCTF, Single Window and One Stop Border Control as they are the main components of CBM.

	Action	Responsible body	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
15	Support the establishment or management of National Committees on Trade Facilitation	WCO Secretariat, TFA WG	Mercator Programme, TFA WG Work Programme and TFA WG Annual Work Plan	December 2018
16	Support the establishment or management of One Stop Border Control	WCO Secretariat	Mercator Programme	December 2018
17	Promote the implementation of a Single Window paperless environment	WCO Secretariat, IMSC, PTC	Mercator Programme, PTC Work Programme, Work Programme on Digital Customs	December 2018

5. Enhance partnership with the private sector

Considering the exponential increase in global trade and the changing dynamics of the international supply chain, there is an increasing need for Customs administrations and businesses to collaborate both with each other and with other stakeholders to ensure that regulations, policies and programmes can effectively respond to an ever-changing environment. The WCO has thus developed a Customs-Business Partnership Guidance document to assist Members with putting in place processes for regular consultation and establishing a robust partnership with business.

The ECP Action Plan for Phase III will require the private sector to be more involved in the WCO Committees and Working Groups and the survey on private sector stakeholders in supply chain management in order to allow us to better understand their roles and expectations.

	Action	Responsible body	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
18	Enhance cooperation with the Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG)	WCO Secretariat, SAFE WG		December 2018
19	Involve the private sector in relevant WCO committees, working groups, seminars and workshops	WCO Secretariat, PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups		December 2018
20	Develop a study report on the roles and expectations of various private sector stakeholders in supply chain management	WCO Secretariat, SAFE WG		July 2018

6. Enhance cooperation and coordination with other international/regional bodies and initiatives

Cooperation and coordination with other international organizations, such as the World Trade Organization and the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, is indispensable to promote security and facilitation of international trade, including simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures. Enhancing cooperation and coordination with them are relevant to all actions of the ECP Action Plan.

	Action	Responsible body	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
21	Enhance cooperation and coordination with other international/regional bodies and initiatives	WCO Secretariat	TFA WG Work Programme, TFA WG Annual Work Plan, PTC Work Programme	December 2018

7. Promote Digital Customs to support, in particular, Coordinated Border Management and information exchange between all stakeholders

The Digital Customs Concept intends to provide a thematic overview of existing WCO tools and instruments. Its aim is to serve as a conceptual framework to support Member administrations in understanding and implementing the ICT-related tools, instruments and guidelines that have already been developed by the WCO. At the Policy Commission in July 2016, a two-year WCO Work Plan on Digital Customs for 2016-2018 was endorsed as a living document. It has since been updated (see Doc. SP0579 - Item VIII on the Agenda for the current session of the Policy Commission). It aims to consolidate the topics that the WCO will be dealing with during the upcoming two-year period.

The ECP for Phase III highlights the main actions only and leaves concrete and detailed actions to the Work Programme on Digital Customs.

	Action	Responsible body	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
22	Provide a framework to consolidate the development, promotion and deployment of the WCO's Information Technology (IT)-related standards, instruments, tools, guidelines and systems	WCO Secretariat, IMSC, other related WCO committees or working groups	Mercator Programme, Work Programme on Digital Customs	December 2018
23	Promote the implementation of Globally Networked Customs (GNC)	WCO Secretariat, IMSC, other related WCO committees or working groups	Mercator Programme, Work Programme on Digital Customs	December 2018
24	Use IT to support Coordinated Border Management	WCO Secretariat, IMSC, other related WCO committees or working groups	Mercator Programme, Work Programme on Digital Customs	December 2018

8. E-Commerce

The effectiveness and efficiency of a Customs administration has a significant impact on the extent to which a country can benefit from the increase in cross-border trade caused by the growth in e-commerce. The Policy Commission, in July 2016, decided to establish the Working Group on e-Commerce to discuss political challenges and solutions related to the growth of e-commerce. The ECP Action Plan follows initiatives and projects to be agreed on at the Working Group on e-Commerce.

	Action	Responsible body	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
25	Discuss practical solutions for the clearance of low-value shipments, including fair and efficient duty/tax collection mechanisms and control procedures that will facilitate the growth of e-commerce, while effectively addressing associated challenges	Working Group on e-Commerce		December 2018

9. Other Issues

The WCO has already developed a range of instruments and tools relevant to the growth of economic competitiveness, and the ECP lists these. Raising the awareness of existing and newly developed WCO tools and activities contributes to enhancing the economic competitiveness of WCO Members. The WCO may offer comprehensive tailor-made operational and technical support to implement ECP tools and instruments, based on WCO Members' needs. The PTC will review the progress of the ECP Action Plan.

	Action	Responsible body	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
26	Capacity building to support the implementation of the WCO's existing instruments and tools	WCO Secretariat	Mercator Programme	December 2018
27	Publish useful awareness-raising material	WCO Secretariat		December 2018
28	Enhance effective use of the WCO Web site to promote existing WCO tools and instruments	WCO Secretariat		December 2018
29	Report regularly to the PTC	WCO Secretariat	PTC Work Programme	PTC sessions