

DRAFT REVISED ECP ACTION PLAN FOR PHASE IV

(January 2019 to June 2020)

1. Economic Competitiveness Package (WCO Strategic Plan - Strategic Process 1 - SP1)

The WCO will develop and update instruments and tools to unlock the significant potential offered by modernizing Customs procedures through the implementation of IT solutions, moving towards efficient Customs procedures that promote the facilitation of legitimate trade by means of an effective risk management strategy. These tools form part of the Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP).

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.

The key priorities of the Strategic Plan 2019-2022 include, among other things, the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC), E-Commerce and Coordinated Border Management (CBM).

WCO committees and working groups regularly review existing WCO tools and instruments on trade facilitation and security. For instance, based on the decision taken by the RKC Management Committee (RKC/MC), the Policy Commission and Council established a Working Group on the Comprehensive Review of the RKC at their June 2018 sessions to conduct a comprehensive review of the Convention.

The Working Group on E-Commerce has developed the Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce and updated the Immediate Release Guidelines, and these developments/updates were adopted by the Policy Commission and Council in June 2018. Going forward, the Framework of Standards (FoS) has been further enriched by an E-Commerce Package, adopted by the Policy Commission and Council in June 2019. The E-Commerce Package includes the technical specifications, definitions, flow charts and data elements, business models, implementation strategy, action plan, capacity building mechanism, and case studies that will facilitate expeditious, effective and harmonized implementation of the Framework, thus further supporting the implementation of relevant TFA measures in the E-Commerce context as well as the ongoing work on the WTO's Work Programme on E-Commerce. Further work on pending items, such as data elements and revenue collection approaches, will continue. There are also plans to develop a Compendium of Case Studies on E-Commerce based on implementation experiences of WCO Members and E-Commerce stakeholders. A mechanism to maintain the E-Commerce FoS and associated tools is also being defined to keep the WCO E-Commerce agenda agile, taking into consideration the dynamically emerging E-Commerce environment.

The WCO has already developed several tools in the area of Coordinated Border Management (CBM) as well, such as the CBM Compendium, Single Window Compendium and Guidance on National Committees on Trade Facilitation (NCTF). The SAFE Framework of Standards (FoS) was revised to include Customs-to-other-Government-Agencies cooperation as its third pillar in 2015, and this pillar has been further enhanced in the 2018 edition of the SAFE Framework.

In addition to the regular activities undertaken by the WCO working bodies, the ECP Action Plan for Phase IV envisages further discussions on developing or refining certain WCO tools and instruments with a view to enhancing the economic competitiveness of WCO Members.

	Action	Responsible body*	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
1	Small Island Economies (SIEs) : Study of Customs procedures and practices and peculiarities/challenges, and development of Guidance for Customs administrations in SIEs that may include potential recommendations/ solutions	PTC	Draft PTC Work Programme 2019-2022	June 2020
2	Conduct a comprehensive review of the RKC	Working Group on the Comprehensive Review of the RKC, RKC/MC	WGRKC Work Plan	June 2021
3	Review of the SAFE FoS	SAFE WG		June 2021
4	Consider new Guidance on Regional Integration	PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	PTC Work Programme	June 2020
5	Discuss the development of Guidance on Special Customs Zones	PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	PTC Work Programme	December 2019
6	Develop new WCO tools and instruments on trade security and facilitation (e.g. E-Commerce, Digital Customs, AEO, mutual recognition), based on Members' needs	PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	PTC Work Programme, WCO Working Group on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA WG) Work Programme	Continuous activity
7	Develop Guidance on Customs' role in the collection of indirect taxes on imported goods	PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	Draft PTC Work Programme 2019-2022	June 2020
8	Guidelines on the alignment of the WCO's AEO and the ICAO's Regulated Agent/Known Consignor programmes	SAFE Working Group and TEGACS	PTC Work Programme	June 2020
9	Guiding Principles for Pre-Loading Advance Cargo Information (PLACI)	SAFE Working Group and TEGACS	PTC Work Programme	June 2020

* The WCO Secretariat will support all the actions in the Action.

	Action	Responsible body*	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
10	Mercury Pilot Project for the e-ATA Carnet	International Chamber of Commerce World Chambers Federation (ICC WCF)	Cooperative work between the WCO, ICC WCF and volunteering WCO Members	June 2020
11	Study Report on Smart Security Devices	SAFE WG	Draft PTC Work Programme 2019-2022	June 2021
12	Discuss the development of Guidance on Railways	PTC, API/ PNR-related WCO body	PTC Work Programme	June 2020
13	Support the establishment or management of One Stop Border Control			Continuous activity
14	Promote the implementation of a Single Window paperless environment and interoperability	Information Management Sub-Committee (IMSC), PTC	PTC Work Programme, Work Programme on Digital Customs	Continuous activity
15	Continue enriching the Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce and developing associated technical guidance and case studies	Virtual Working Group on E-Commerce, PTC	PTC Work Programme	June 2020
16	Joint WCO-UPU Guidelines on data capture and compliance with CN22/CN23 postal forms	WCO-UPU Contact Committee, PTC	WCO-UPU Contact Committee Work Programme	June 2020
17	Refine and update existing WCO tools and instruments on trade security and facilitation based on Members' needs	PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	PTC Work Programme, TFA WG Work Programme	Continuous activity

2. Sharing of knowledge and best practices (WCO Strategic Plan - Strategic Process 6 - SP6)

The WCO fosters knowledge exchange and the sharing of policies and best practices through the organization of missions, international and regional events and the promotion of Customs-to-Customs meetings, workshops and forums.

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 therein. 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 practices among Members. The TFA Working Group has discussed how its own Work Programme can support the effective implementation of the WTO TFA provisions.

The WCO has developed a Customs-Business Partnership Guidance document to assist Members with putting in place processes for regular consultation and for establishing a robust partnership with business. The ECP Action Plan for Phase IV will require the private sector to be more involved in the WCO committees and working groups and in the survey on private sector stakeholders in supply chain management, in order to increase the Organization's understanding of their roles and expectations.

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

The PTC will review the progress of the ECP Action Plan.

	Action	Responsible body*	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
18	Collect, analyse and share examples of innovative practice			Continuous activity
19	Compile a Compendium of Best Practices in the area of transit	PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	PTC Work Programme, TFA WG Work Programme	June 2020
20	Fifth WCO Global Conference on AEO	SAFE Working Group		March 2020
21	2020 WCO Technology Conference			June 2020
22	Update and implement the TFA Working Group Work Programme	TFA WG	TFA WG Work Programme, TFA WG Annual Work Plan	Continuous activity
23	Regional ICAO-WCO joint training workshops on air cargo security and facilitation	SAFE WG, TEGACS	PTC Work Programme	June 2020
24	Joint ICAO-WCO Conference on air cargo security and facilitation	SAFE WG, TEGACS	PTC Work Programme	June 2020
25	Involve the private sector in relevant WCO committees, working groups, seminars and workshops	PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups		Continuous activity
26	Develop a study report on the roles and expectations of various private sector stakeholders in supply chain management	SAFE WG		June 2020
27	Publish useful awareness-raising material			Continuous activity

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	Action	Responsible body*	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
28	Report regularly to the PTC			Continuous activity
29	Update of the AEO Compendium	SAFE WG		Annual
30	Compendium of E-Commerce case studies	PTC		June 2020
31	Online repository of case studies on the Single Window environment			Continuous activity
32	Update the Study Report on Disruptive Technologies with new case studies	PTC, Virtual Working Group on the Future of Customs		June 2020
33	Regional Experience-Sharing Workshops on Disruptive Technologies	PTC		June 2020

3. Technical assistance, training and tools for implementation of international standards (WCO Strategic Plan - Strategic Process 7 - SP7)

The WCO will provide tools and capacity building to Members in accordance with their expressed needs, and/or needs identified through performance measurement tools. The WCO will assist Members in implementing the tools and instruments developed for the Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP), Revenue Package (RP), Compliance and Enforcement Package (CEP) and Organizational Development Package (ODP).

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 Customs-related.

The WCO may offer comprehensive tailor-made operational and technical support to implement ECP tools and instruments, based on WCO Members' needs.

Under the ECP Action Plan for Phase IV, the WCO will strengthen its supporting activities for National Committees on Trade Facilitation (NCTF), E-Commerce, SAFE FoS, AEO programmes and Mutual Recognition Arrangements/Agreements (MRAs), Single Window (SW), One Stop Border Control and interconnectivity/interoperability of IT systems (as they are the main components of CBM).

	Action	Responsible body*	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
34	Accredit more Mercator Programme Advisors (if required) and Technical and Operational Advisors in the areas addressed by the TFA	TFA WG, other relevant committees or working groups	TFA WG Work Programme, TFA WG Annual Work Plan	Continuous activity

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	Action	Responsible body*	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
35	Deliver tailor-made capacity building projects for TFA implementation	TFA WG, other relevant committees or working groups	TFA WG Work Programme, TFA WG Annual Work Plan	Continuous activity
36	Support the establishment or management of National Committees on Trade Facilitation	WCO TFA WG	TFA WG Work Programme, TFA WG Annual Work Plan	Continuous activity
37	Provide capacity building support to Members with the implementation of the Framework of Standards on Cross-Border E-Commerce in a harmonized and effective manner, under the terms of the June 2018 Council Resolution on the Framework	Virtual Working Group on E-Commerce, PTC, Capacity Building Committee (CBC)		Continuous activity
38	Provide capacity building support to Members with the implementation of the SAFE FoS, AEO programmes and MRAs and accredit more Technical and Operational Advisors in these areas	SAFE WG, CBC		Continuous activity
39	Support and enhance Members' exchange of information capabilities within Globally Networked Customs (GNC)	IMSC, PTC		Continuous activity
40	Capacity building activities to harmonize regulatory requirements and comply with the WCO Data Model (DM)			Continuous activity
41	Support Members with the implementation of Single Window (SW) systems			Continuous activity
42	Capacity building to support the implementation of the WCO's existing instruments and tools			Continuous activity

4. Use of technology and data (WCO Strategic Plan - Learning and Development 2 - LD2)

The WCO will consider the use of technology in all its activities, and will continue to update Members on the latest developments in IT solutions for Customs procedures and objectives. The effective use of data, and the related methodologies for processing and analysing it, is a core task under Digital Customs.

The Digital Customs Concept is intended 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 Information and Communication Technologies (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. After two years of focused work in the area of Digital Customs, it is an opportune time to take stock of the situation and take forward the topic of Digital Customs, by leveraging new opportunities.

The ECP Action Plan for Phase IV highlights the main actions concerning Digital Customs.

	Action	Responsible body*	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
43	Study Report on Disruptive Technologies	PTC, Virtual Working Group on the Future of Customs	PTC Work Programme	June 2019
44	Develop Guidelines on interoperability/ interconnectivity of IT systems/ Single Windows	PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	PTC Work Programme, TFA WG Work Programme	June 2020
45	Provide a framework to consolidate the development, promotion and deployment of the WCO's Information Technology (IT)-related standards, instruments, tools, guidelines and systems	IMSC, SAFE WG, other related WCO committees or working groups	WCO Digital Customs Agenda	Continuous activity
46	Development of a Handbook on Information Security	IMSC, other related WCO committees or working groups		June 2020
47	Promote the implementation of GNC. Develop new Utility Blocks, also taking into account the application of new technologies for information exchange (including blockchain and cloud computing)	Data Model Projects Team (DMPT), IMSC, PTC, other related WCO committees or working groups	WCO Digital Customs Agenda	June 2020

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	Action	Responsible body*	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
48	Upgrade the WCO Single Window Interactive Map (SWIM) and the WCO Reform and Modernization - Monitoring Activities and Projects (RAM-MAP) platform			January 2020
49	Use IT to support Coordinated Border Management	IMSC, other related WCO committees or working groups	WCO Digital Customs Agenda	Continuous activity
50	Revision of the technical and non-technical Guidelines of the WCO Data Model	IMSC, other related WCO committees or working groups	WCO Digital Customs Agenda	Continuous activity
51	Enhancement of electronic services (including cloud computing solutions) in Customs and border processes : development of a Handbook on Electronic Services	IMSC, other related WCO committees or working groups		June 2020
52	Update of the RKC ICT Guidelines	IMSC, RKC/MC		June 2021
53	Exploration of new and emerging technologies (e.g. blockchain) in the Customs environment, and related work in terms of standardization, interoperability and data quality. Development of a comprehensive concept paper on blockchain : policy and technical perspectives	IMSC, other related WCO committees or working groups		June 2020
54	Examination of the use of Product Identification Systems in Customs and other regulatory processes	PTC, IMSC		June 2020
55	Update of the WCO TRS Software	PTC, IMSC, CBC, Working Group on Performance Measurement (WGPM)		Continuous activity
56	Standardization of required data and modern tools for data exchange	PTC, IMSC, DMPT		Continuous activity
57	Explore the possibility of releasing a new major version (Version 4.0.0) of the WCO Data Model	DMPT, IMSC		June 2020

	Action	Responsible body*	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
58	Research paper/ development of Guidelines on SW automation processes, audit policies and mechanisms, and their impact on integrity aspects			September 2020

5. Raise the profile of the WCO and promote Customs’ role (WCO Strategic Plan - Learning and Development 3 - LD3)

Through the update and implementation of an effective Communication Strategy and engagement with other strategic stakeholders, the WCO will promote its tools and instruments, as well as its main results, and will increase awareness of the importance of Customs’ role in trade, security and global economic development.

The WCO has already developed a range of instruments and tools relevant to the growth of economic competitiveness, and these are listed in the ECP. Raising the awareness of existing and newly developed WCO tools and activities contributes to enhancing the economic competitiveness of WCO Members.

The WCO undertakes a range of promotion activities in order to disseminate its instruments and tools. As a means to promote the importance of Customs for national economic competitiveness, the WCO uses multiple platforms to communicate information about its activities and tools to its stakeholders.

Raising the profile of Customs and promoting its role at the border requires raising awareness of external stakeholders on these matters.

	Action	Responsible body*	Relevant Work Programme/ Action Plan	Timeframe
59	Enhance cooperation with the World Trade Organization	TFA WG	TFA WG Work Programme, TFA WG Annual Work Plan	Continuous activity
60	Enhance cooperation with other international organizations	Relevant working bodies		Continuous activity
61	Enhance cooperation with the Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG)	SAFE WG		Continuous activity
62	Ensure effective use of the WCO Web site to promote existing WCO tools and instruments			Continuous activity
63	Enhance WCO attendance at events or conferences organized by other international organizations or by the private sector			Continuous activity

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