

UPDATE ON PRIORITY AREAS OF CUSTOMS COOPERATION FROM OCTOBER 2010 TO SEPTEMBER 2011*

	Simplification and harmonization of customs procedures and documentation	ICT customs modernization and data exchange	Risk management and post-entry audit	Regional transit development
Major achievements	<p>1. A new Customs Code of the Azerbaijan Republic has been adopted based on the Kyoto Convention on Customs Procedures Simplification and Harmonization.</p> <p>2. The following documents have been adopted to simplify and streamline customs procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On streamlining shipments between two customs bodies "Rules of Customs Control and Customs Clearance of Goods and Vehicles Transported between Two Customs Bodies of the Azerbaijan Republic" - To simplify the procedure for interaction between individuals and customs authorities for the purposes of customs control and clearance of goods and vehicles, as well as to register such operations electronically, including to make electronic data available for public "Technological Flowchart to Regulate the Issues of Registration and Rules to Apply for Clearance of Goods and Vehicles" have been prepared. - Pursuant to the Law of the Azerbaijan Republic "On Amendments to the Administrative Code of the Azerbaijan Republic" dated 22.02.2011, No. 70-IVQD, the Instruction on the Rules of Seizure of Objects Moved Across the Customs Border of by the Azerbaijan Republic by Customs Bodies". - To observe certain limits when carrying out customs control 	<p>Infrastructure has been constructed at the border between the Azerbaijan Republic and the Russian Federation, Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran and equipped with necessary modern equipment, and put in operation for the Astara, Bilasuvar customs houses, Tovuz customs house – BCP Synyg Korpyu, Belokansk customs house – BCP Mazymchai, as well as other customs infrastructure is planned to be constructed and rehabilitated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of e-service related to customs; - The project on introduction of e-Customs is underway. 	<p>To improve the post-entry audit, significant amendments have been introduced to the new Customs Code of the Azerbaijan, which reflect the key aspects of international customs law in this sphere. In particular, such concepts as "general" and "specific" audits have been introduced, as well as timelines have been established for some specific procedures.</p>	<p>1. To simplify transit railway operations in the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic, the State Customs Committee of the Azerbaijan Republic adopted the SMGS waybill as a transit declaration on the basis of Recommendation (?) № 50 of the UNECE Working Group on customs Issues related to transport.</p> <p>2. E-customs clearance and control procedures based on the SW principle are applied successfully and further simplified when checking goods and vehicles moved across border crossing points of the Azerbaijan Republic.</p>

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	<p>procedures at border customs checkpoints of the Azerbaijan Republic, time limits have been identified for customs control of goods depending on specifics of their movement, and vehicles transporting goods – depending on their type.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure the security of international shipments the Rules for the Use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) have been approved to determine the position of goods and vehicles moved between two customs borders in the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic along a specific route and within a specific period of time in order to control their delivery to the destination. - To protect the intellectual property rights the State Customs Committee of the Azerbaijan Republic has established an electronic register of goods containing intellectual property objects. - To implement the Decree of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic "On Amendments to the Administrative Code of the Azerbaijan Republic" dated 04.03.2011, the State Customs Committee of the Azerbaijan Republic has developed and disseminated in all customs bodies some booklets and posters to ensure transparency and completeness of information on goods prohibited and restricted for movement across the border, as well as to provide information on a 			

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	mechanism to permit the movement of goods and vehicles for persons crossing the state border.			
Issues/Concerns Encountered		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business process modernization; - Lack of a mechanism for electronic/digital signature. 		
Actions Taken to Address Issues/Concerns		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a new Customs Code of AZE; - Reforming the structure of the SCC of AZE; - Conducting tests/exams to recruit new staff to the customs bodies; - Conducting trainings and workshops for institutional development of customs staff. 		
Future plans		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of e-customs and an effective ICT system in the customs service. 	Improvement of the post-entry procedures according to the new Customs Code, which will be put in force as of January 1, 2012.	

*** Please report only major achievements in the priority areas. Please also include your report any action taken on the implementation of the Time Release Study for your country.**