

Working Group 'B' of the Customs Cooperation Committee

Baku, Azerbaijan

3rd December 2004

Chairman's Statement

Working Group 'B': Chaired by Mr. Serikbaev K. Uzbekistan Delegation

Working Group 'B' of the C. C. C. had for discussion the following components:

4. Data Sharing and ICT for Customs Operations
5. Development of Risk Management, Post Clearance Audit and Customs Intelligence

Component 4. The Working Group in its deliberations agreed on the importance of a system for data exchange, on a bilateral or multilateral basis between the member countries of the CCC, for the development of a number of areas of their Customs Services. In particular the group drew attention to the importance of electronic data sharing in a timely, uniform and meaningful manner for the development of (a) an effective and efficient Risk Management system, (b) Post Clearance Audit controls and (c) the gathering of useful and useable Customs Intelligence.

The group recognized that the exchange of data between the member countries would require a legal framework which would need to be addressed as an initial set. Further more the exercise in data transfer could present technical and/or practical difficulties which might require expert advice and assistance in resolving. However the group did not see these difficulties as representing an insurmountable obstacle and were of the view that worthwhile progress could be made.

In recognition of the need for and importance of data sharing, the Working Group made a number of recommendations. These cover the following aspects:

- (a) Legal requirements to cover data exchange
- (b) Development of standard list of information fields
- (c) Agreed uniform format for data exchange
- (d) Agreed reference system
- (e) Submission of SAD's on bilateral basis
- (f) Setting up of ICT specialist Working Group

The ICT specialist working group should be set up as a matter of urgency. Nominations should be made in time for a convening of the working group at the Singapore meeting of the CCC on 26th to 28th January 2005.

Component 5. The Working Group in its discussions on Risk Management, Post Clearance Audit and Customs Intelligence made reference to the Common Action Plan on Cooperation in these areas, accepted by the CCC in August, 2002.

The group was mindful of the increasing importance placed on trade facilitation and of the need for Customs Services to adapt their practices and procedures to meet the requirements of this environment. They accepted that risk management and post clearance audit were now recognized as important elements in trade facilitation and that progress in these areas was crucial in the development of a modern Customs Service geared to meet the new challenges.

The group recognized the fact that systems to cover these aspects of Customs controls require specific tailoring to meet the particular needs and circumstances of each individual member country. However they saw the need to establish a mechanism to assist the member countries in

- (a) holding discussions and sharing experiences in these areas
- (b) achieving the greatest possible degree of harmonization of development
- (c) developing mutual cooperation between the member countries

To meet this need and to respond adequately to the present environment the group recommended that a working group comprising one member from each country be set up to coordinate developments in these areas. These officials should be of senior rank and produce reports on developments in risk management, post clearance audit controls in their respective countries. This working group should meet as part of the Customs Cooperation Committee.

The nominations to this working group should be made as soon as possible and the group should convene at the next meeting in Singapore scheduled for 26th -28th January 2005.

The Group further recommended that a workshop be held for the RM/PCU working group as an initial step and that regional and in country training on a 'train the trainers' basis should be given by selected recognized experts in these fields.

The group notes with appreciation the offer of the delegation of PRC to host a seminar on Risk Management and Post Clearance Audit in Apr/May 2005.

The group again stressed the importance of progress in data transfer between the member countries for the developments of Risk Management systems, Post Clearance Audit and Customs Intelligence.