

THE VIENNA DECLARATION

We, the Directors General/Commissioners of the Customs Administrations of ASEM Member States, met in Vienna, Austria on 17-18 October 2013, under the Chairmanship of the Director-General of Austrian Customs, Mr Hans Georg Kramer

- NOTING that the ASEM 9 Summit which took place in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 5. – 6. November 2012, reaffirmed the commitment of all ASEM Members to achieve sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental protection. It called on ASEM partners to enhance the efficiency, the coherence, the continuity and the visibility of the work of ASEM;
- ACKNOWLEDGING that Customs Administrations can strengthen their capacity to address modern challenges by exchanging experiences and improving cooperation;
- CONFIRMING the need to make further progress in the priority areas agreed at the DGs/Commissioners Meeting in Heraklion in 2009 and confirmed in Hua Hin in 2011:
 - Trade Facilitation and Supply Chain Security
 - Combating Infringement on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
 - Protecting Society and the Environment
 - Involving Business;
- REALISING that the importance of sustainable protection of the society and the environment while facilitating trade for reliable operators is one of the greatest challenges for Customs Administrations;
- ACKNOWLEDGING the necessity to strengthen cooperation between the relevant agencies both on national and international levels ;
- RECOGNISING that the ASEM Customs cooperation should be an essential contributor to combating infringements in the area of intellectual property rights;
- STRESSING the necessity of moving towards concrete and sustainable operational results;
- FULLY SUPPORTING activities in promoting the visibility of ASEM initiatives and outcomes;

AGREED to focus on the following activities for the next two years (2014-2015):

1) Trade Facilitation and Security of the Supply Chain

- Review the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP) on customs matters to cover the period 2014-15 and propose a new TFAP for the period 2016-17 to DG's and Commissioners. Facilitate matching of countries needing and offering training during the review process. Reinforce the monitoring aspect of the ASEM customs work, namely the implementation of the Action Plan (*coordinators: European Commission – Korea*);
- Share experience on the AEO mutual recognition process as well as enhance public awareness of the AEO programme; examine the compatibility of IT systems and contribute to the work on Global Trader Identification taking into account the WCO's GNC initiative. Reinforce the cooperation between customs and other authorities to find synergies and to avoid duplication of security related audits, advance collaboration in areas like air cargo, maritime security and dual use goods (*coordinators: Poland/European Commission – Japan*); and
- Discuss the concept and improve implementation of coordinated border management (CBM), in the context of EU-Asia trade relations. Conduct a study into the possibilities of CBM in further facilitating the flow of goods (*coordinators: The Netherlands - Korea*).

2) Combating Counterfeiting and Customs IPR Enforcement

- Include IPR customs enforcement in the agenda of the future Customs Trade Days; make it the main topic of the 2015 Trade Day. Follow-up of ASEM customs actions completed in the area of IPR enforcement should serve as a basis for establishing the topics to be included in the programme of the Trade Days; and
- Examine the IT tools used by ASEM members in support of IPR customs enforcement; develop a best practice guide based upon the findings. Explore synergies between compatible IT tools, develop best practices regarding traceability devices and standards. (*Coordinators: Germany - India*)
- Proceed with the briefing meeting for the Joint Customs Operation Replica. Provided sufficient number of Asian ASEM Members commit to the operation it may be implemented under the ASEM umbrella (*Coordinator: European Commission*).

3) Protecting the Society and the Environment

- Examine the role of customs and identify good practices in controlling product safety and compliance in the area of industrial products (*Coordinators: Czech Republic - tbd*); and
- Organise a workshop gathering European and Asian customs and other competent national authorities to identify the challenges and the potential improvements to be brought customs-wise to control trans-boundary waste shipments between the two regions taking into account the respective policies, laws and practices (*Coordinators: Denmark - People's Republic of China*).

4) Involving Business

- Continue to organise regular ASEM Customs-Trade-Days back to back to ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters (AWC) meetings, to give the opportunity to the ASEM business community to discuss priorities and input; and
- Test the workshop package developed during the 2012-13 Action Plan in the framework of the ASEM Customs Trade Days, and if suitable volunteers found also at in an Asian and in a European member. Evaluate the use of the package and revise best practices accordingly (*Coordinators: Sweden – Singapore*).

5) Communication and Visibility Enhance communication between ASEM Members including through the use of the Programme Information and Collaboration Space (PICS) platform.

Make concrete measures to increase the visibility of ASEM customs activities:

- Publicize the results of the ASEM customs work in other international forums such as the WCO;
- Promote the results in international and national conferences;
- Increase web presence;
- Increase press coverage of ASEM Customs meetings;
- Ensure coordination between interested ASEM Members to identify further ideas in this area.

We, the DGs/Commissioners of the Customs Administrations of the ASEM Member States, will make every effort to implement the above agreed activities and to promote their visibility, convinced that they will lead to fruitful initiatives and outcomes and agree to evaluate results achieved at our next Meeting.