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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE   24 May 2010

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport   ENGLISH

One-hundred-and- twenty-fifth session
Geneva, 25 – 28 May 2010
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party

Executive summary of the 6th meeting of the SAFE Working Group (SWG) (28-29 April 2010)

Note by the WCO secretariat

At the 6th Meeting of the SAFE Working Group (SWG) (28-29 April), the SAFE WG:

- Adopted the SWG Fifth Meeting report with the minor amendments suggested by the European Union and the World Shipping Council.

- Acknowledged the report and update by the PSCG Chairperson on some of the work done by the group; AEO Benefits, PSCG Globally Harmonized AEO Application and Self Assessment Criteria, Time Limits for Advance Reporting of Export Data, Publications, Nominations for PSCG and Customs-Business Partnership amongst others.

- Took note of the Director's report concerning recent developments relating to the United States 100% scanning legislation. The Secretariat continues to pursue its policy of constructive engagement with the United States, however, currently this is more difficult as there is a focus particularly on passenger movements in the US administration in the light of the December 25th 2009 incident.

- Considered the proposal and presentation made by the U.S. Delegation on the ISF (10+2). Most Members were either in favor of or had no objection to the inclusion of the remaining data elements not presently in the SAFE FoS, as in so far they relate to maritime traffic. The EU indicated they would continue the consultation process with EU member states and bilaterally with the U.S. The EU and the US will then inform the Secretariat of the outcome in time for the June Policy Commission and Council Sessions. Subject to a positive outcome, the proposal to include the remaining data elements would be recommended to the Policy Commission and Council for inclusion in the SAFE FoS.

- Took note of the presentation by the Secretariat on the additional responses to the SAFE Implementation Survey. The full consolidated report will be presented to the Policy Commission and the Council in June 2010.

- Took note of the CB presentation on progress on the Columbus programme and the Accreditation Workshop to designate RKC/AEO Experts in June 2010.

- Took note of the update on the SAFE Package and agreed to include the SAFE Data Element Maintenance Mechanism in the Package. The SAFE package will be given to every head of administration at the June 2010 Council Sessions. The PSCG Members

and observers will receive a CD ROM version of the Package. The US proposed to include the WCO Data Model in the SAFE Package.

- Took note of the latest updates to the AEO Compendium.

- Accepted the PSCG AEO Benefits document as amended in the course of the meeting and agreed that it would be included in the SAFE Package as a submission by the PSCG.

  - Took note of the PSCG Draft Harmonized AEO Application and Self Assessment Criteria document. The Secretariat would send the document in French and English during the intersession to the delegates for their comments. The document will be considered at the 7th SWG Meeting.

  - Took note of the PSCG document on Time Limits for Advance Reporting of Export Data. The Secretariat would send the document in French and English during the intersession to the delegates for their comments. The document will be considered at the 7th SWG Meeting.

  - Took note of the update by the Secretariat on the work currently being carried out in developing CBM and Single Window Compendiums due for completion in June 2011 and the proposal by ICC for the WCO to host another international forum on CBM.

  - Took note of the report by the Secretariat on the study conducted on SMEs in developing countries and AEO authorization. Several Members including the PSCG provided suggestions for a way forward.

  - Took note of the current situation on the technology issues i.e. Technology Experts' Group, Scanning assistance to Members and the forthcoming Technology Conference to be held in Egypt in November 2010.

  - Took note of the update provided by the delegate from the EU on the EU – China Pilot project.

  - Adopted the draft definitions of the terms "screening" and "scanning' that were proposed by the Virtual Definition Group for use in the SAFE environment. Explanatory notes will be prepared to explain that "scanning" is part of the screening process and that in air transport the definitions differ. The terms will also be recommended to the PTC to be reviewed and included in the WCO Glossary of International Customs Terms.

  - Noted the update provided by Singapore on Trade Recovery issues and the US proposal to defer the setting up of a Subgroup on Trade Recovery issues until Members have gained more experience with the testing of TR Guidelines. Noted also the proposal by TIACA to include TR in relation to air transport. . The PSCG welcomed the suggestion by Australia to include Trade Recovery as an agenda item in their next meeting.

  - Took note of the presentation by Japan on the current status of their AEO Program, Steps to be completed during negotiations on Mutual Recognition, APEC's planned AEO Best Practices Compendium and the WCO Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on AEO held in Japan in January 2010.

  - Requested the Secretariat to re-examine the SWG ToR with a view to including provisions on the election of its Chairperson, in line with ToRs for other Committees and Working Groups. The issue will be discussed at the 7th SWG.

  - Mr. Theo Hesselink was re-elected as the Chairperson of the SWG.

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