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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	23 June 2016
To:	Customs Cooperation Working Party
Subject:	Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 3143/1/16.

2. Information from the Presidency

The Presidency informed the Working Party of the recently adopted documents and forthcoming meetings relevant for customs, such as:

1. the Annual Report of OLAF, presented on 31 May 2016 and revealing a record number of concluded investigations;
2. the Roadmap for enhancing information exchange and information management, including interoperability solutions in the Justice and Home Affairs area (8473/2/16), endorsed by the Council on 10 June 2016;
3. the upcoming meeting of the trio Presidencies with the Frontex Management Board to discuss cooperation between Frontex and the CCWP, including coordination of joint operations.

3. High Level Customs Directors-General Meeting, Brussels, 20 April 2016 - follow up

The Presidency presented the report from the Customs Directors General meeting (1256/2/16 REV 2), and sought Member States' views on how best to address the mandate given by the Directors General for strategic conclusions as regards tackling excise fraud. It was decided that the Slovak Presidency would present an interim report to the next DGs meeting in October, outlining what has been done in the framework of Actions 8.6.1 and 8.6.2 of the 8th Action Plan. On the basis of the results of the two actions, a new action will be conceived and included in the 8th Action Plan aiming at further reflection and drafting of strategic conclusions. Discussions will continue during the next CCWP Plenary meeting on 12 July 2016.

4. 8th Action Plan (2016-2017) of the Customs Cooperation Working Party

The Working Party approved all three draft mandates on the agenda:

1. the mandate for Action 8.1 "Illegal trade via internet/small consignments" (9021/1/16 REV 1)
2. the mandate for Action 8.4 "Illicit trafficking in firearms" (8700/1/16 REV 1). A revised version reflecting the Member States' comments will be issued.
3. the mandate for Action 8.5 "Export of strategic goods" (9022/1/16 REV 1). A revised version reflecting the Member States' comments will be issued.

The Member States discussed the update on the overview of the 8th Action Plan's actions and reference documents (DS 1098/2/16 REV 2). The document will be updated to reflect the adoption of the last three mandates, and their subsequent movement to phase II "Implementation".

5. Customs Law Enforcement Training Catalogue and training needs analyses (follow-up to the final report of Action 7.9)

CEPOL presented its training catalogue and training needs analyses and pointed to its new mandate, which would take effect on 1 July 2016 and consider customs as an extended target group.

6. Update of the monitoring file of implementation of the Project Groups' recommendations + Overview of actions

The Member States agreed to the documents outlining the suggestions put forward by the Presidency with respect to the monitoring file (7456/2/16 REV 2 + ADD 1 REV 2 and DS 1269/1/16 REV 1).

7. Joint initiative (DG TAXUD/OLAF) to reduce multiple reporting of customs seizures

The Commission informed the Working Party of the finalisation in May 2016 of the commissioned survey and of the currently ongoing analysis with a view to deciding on the next steps to reducing the multiple reporting of customs seizures. The Commission would provide the Working Party with further information after the summer break.

8. OLAF annual report 2015

The presentation of OLAF has been postponed to the next CCWP Plenary meeting on 12 July 2016.

9. Lessons learned regarding the implementation of the Council Conclusions of 10 December 2013 on stepping up the fight against cigarette smuggling and other forms of illicit trade in tobacco products in the EU - discussion

OLAF informed the Working Party of the Implementation report that it planned to prepare by the end of the year, as well as of the European Parliament Resolution from 9 March 2016 on cigarettes smuggling.

10. Roadmap to enhance information exchange and information management including interoperability solutions in the Justice and Home Affairs area - CCWP relevant measures

The Presidency presented the CCWP relevant measures in the Roadmap containing specific, practical short and medium-term actions, and long-term orientations for enhancing information management and information exchange in the Justice and Home Affairs area (9368/1/16 REV 1 + COR 1). The Presidency pointed that the Roadmap was building on the ongoing work over the past years, and was meant to be a living document.

11. Representation of CCWP in other fora

The Member States agreed to the Presidency document outlining the main principles of CCWP representation in other fora (10256/16).

12. Revised Guide for Joint Customs Operations

The Working party discussed the revised Guide for Joint Customs Operations (10352/16). The Commission would provide written comments. The JCO Guide will be brought to the agenda of the next CCWP Plenary on 12 July 2016.

13. Priorities of the incoming SK Presidency

The incoming Presidency presented its priorities in the field as follows:

1. Implementation of the 8th Action Plan;
2. Customs Competences;
3. Role of customs and the cooperation with other enforcement authorities in the fight against terrorism;
4. Council Conclusions on the implementation of the EU Strategy and Action Plan on Customs Risk Management;
5. Information exchange and cooperation with third countries;
6. JCOs and participation of Customs in other joint operations;
7. Improving the financing of customs co-operation activities;
8. Excise fraud and
9. Council Conclusions on the OLAF Report on tobacco fraud.

14. AOB

The Presidency informed the Working Party of the finalised Business Case for JCO Warehouse (9928/16 ENFOCUSTOM 87 CRIMORG 59 UD 123 ENFOPOL 186 RESTREINT UE), for which a REV 1 version will be issued reflecting the comments received by Member States by the established deadline. The Commission informed the Working Party of the Briefing meeting on the JCO to take place on 27 September 2016 in Brussels.

The Presidency informed the Working Party of the joint meeting with the Customs Union and Tax questions Working Parties to be held on 30 June 2016.