



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 23 April 2014
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ENFOCUSTOM 54**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 15 April 2014
To: Customs Cooperation Working Party (Experts meeting)
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. CM 2219/14.

2. Information from the Presidency

The Presidency briefed the delegates about the recently held and forthcoming meetings and workshops relevant for customs. Information was also provided on the progress of the Customs Union Group's work on amendment of Regulation 515/97 and on the proposal for the Directive on customs infringements and sanctions.

3. JCOs and Operational Activities

- **Project ANTS**

The HR delegation provided information on project ANTS focused on cigarette smuggling and implemented in the framework of SECI/ SELEC (Southeast European Cooperative Initiative/Southeast European Law Enforcement Center).

- **JCO ERMIS**

The EL delegation briefed the delegates on the progress of JCO ERMIS and on the recently held training for participants concerning the use of VOCU application in AFIS. The organisers asked the MS to update by 26 April the messages on searches in their territory, in order to facilitate the conclusion of the operation.

- **Operation OPSON III**

The EUROPOL representative briefed the delegates on operation OPSON III (counterfeit and substandard foodstuffs) and on the preparations for operation OPSON IV, noting the growing interest of MS to participate.

- **Operations COCAIR IV, DEMETER III, WESTERLIES II**

The WCO representatives briefed the delegates on the results of operations COCAIR IV (smuggling of cocaine by air passengers), WESTERLIES II (methamphetamine trafficking by air passengers) and DEMETER III (hazardous and other waste, including e-waste, household waste and industrial waste). The importance of capacity-building and training built into WCO operations was emphasised.

4. Action 7.5 “To identify the need for new models of cooperation between customs and other agencies/joint customs operations. To implement the strategy of the future customs law enforcement cooperation within the context of the EU policy cycle while taking into account the link with the tax authorities”

The Presidency presented the report on the questionnaire for the identification of authorities and national strategy, as set out in doc. 7884/14 ENFOCUSTOM 41 COSI 26 UD 88 ENFOPOL 89 FRONT 67 FISC 51, which showed that the customs competences in the EU Policy Cycle priorities are most often shared with police (counterfeit goods, excise fraud, MTIC fraud, synthetic drugs, cocaine/heroin and firearms) and tax authorities (excise and MTIC fraud) and that there is common ground for multi-agency co-operation. The next step of the CCWP Experts work under action 7.5 would be to prepare an analysis of the various forms of co-operation between customs and police and between customs and tax authorities. The Presidency invited the delegations to provide any comments on the report by 30 April 2014.

5. Environmental Crime

DG TAXUD presented its PARCS initiative to support customs in carrying out controls on non-fiscal EU regulations (on customs action to protect health, cultural heritage, environment and nature).

6. Action 7.10 “To identify the fields for customs law enforcement cooperation such as joint operations, in the fight against environmental crime (e.g. hazardous waste, ozone, CITES, links to organized groups)”

The Presidency presented the Report on the questionnaire for the identification of authorities as set out in doc. 7876/14 ENFOCUSTOM 40 COSI 25 ENFOPOL 88 ENV 288. The next step of the CCWP Experts work under action 7.10 would focus on identifying best practices. The Presidency invited the delegations to provide any comments on the report by 30 April 2014.

7. Discussions on Tactical Objectives and Risk areas for years 2015- 2016

The Presidency presented the proposal to maintain the current tactical objectives and risk areas for JCOs (revised in 2013) as set out in doc. DS 1155/14, and invited the delegations to provide any comments by 30 April 2014. Afterwards, the document would be sent for the adoption by the CCWP Experts via written procedure, aiming for adoption in the CCWP Plenary meeting in May 2014.

8. Approval of the annual review of the Guide for Joint Customs Operations

The Presidency presented the revised proposal for amendments of the JCO Guide as set out in doc. DS 1035/1/14 REV 1, and delegations adopted it incorporating a drafting comment by SE delegation.

9. JCO Coordination Mechanism

The Presidency presented an update of the JCO Coordination Mechanism and informed the delegates of the forthcoming coordination meeting in mid-May. The Presidency also invited the delegates to submit information by 30 April on upcoming operations, to feed into the coordination meeting, as well as to allow for issuing of an update of the JCO Overview (doc. 5194/6/13 REV 6 ENFOCUSTOM 6 RESTREINT UE) for the next CCWP Experts meeting.

10. AOB

No item was raised.
