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**JAI 607
ENFOCUSTOM 88**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 17 July 2014
To: Customs Cooperation Working Party (Experts meeting)
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in document **CM 3440/1/14 REV 1**, an intervention by NL being added under AOB.

2. Information from the Presidency

The Presidency briefed the delegates about the forthcoming meetings and recently held events and initiatives relevant for customs, with a focus on the meetings of the project groups for actions 7.1 and 7.3 in Malta and Brussels

2.1 Presentation of the IT Presidency priorities

The Presidency gave an outline of its general priorities, focusing on growth and employment, rebuilding trust in the EU and reinforcing EU's role in the world. In the field of customs, with respect to the CCWP, the Presidency presented both strategic (a new role for the WP in the context of the debate on the reform of the EU governance, its identity, the links with the Policy Cycle and the effectiveness of actions) and operational objectives (implementation of the 7th Action Plan, follow-up of Actions 7.5 and 7.10, sharing of best practices and JCO Warehouse II).

3. OLAF Programme Hercule II: the final results of the project and of the regional JCO Bitter Pill

IT briefed the delegates on the final report of JCO "Bitter Pill" financed through OLAF Programme Hercule II. The operation was targeted against illicit trafficking of counterfeit cigarettes and medicines, on the basis of a threat assessment, in the Western Balkans, Mediterranean Region, Eastern neighbouring countries, Turkey and Italy. The presentation outlined both the strategic and the tactical objectives of the operation, as well as its results and a set of recommendations.

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 future customs law enforcement cooperation within the context of the EU Policy Cycle while taking in account the link with tax authorities"

The Presidency presented for adoption the amended questionnaire *"To identify the need for new models of cooperation between customs and other agencies / joint customs operations. To implement the strategy of future customs law enforcement cooperation within the context of the EU Policy Cycle while taking in account the link with tax authorities"* (Action 7.5), as set out in document [CM 3000/1/14 REV 1](#). The questionnaire was adopted. However, due to some minor linguistic amendments requested by one MS, a REV 2 will be issued. The deadline for answers is 10 August.

5. Sharing of best practices between Customs and Police authorities: a practical example of cooperation at national level

IT briefed the delegates on the "Operation D.A.B. - Dirty Alcohol and Beer". The operation targeted the international traffic of alcohol products under excise duties suspensions and it was considered a successful example of cooperation between different national authorities (Italian Customs and Guardia di Finanza). Europol took the floor to underline the fact that such an exercise also fits into the Policy Cycle.

6. Final report of JCO ERMIS

EL presented for adoption the final report of JCO ERMIS as set out in document 11696/14 ENFOCUSTOM 86 + ADD 1 RESTREINT UE. The operation targeted the IPR infringing goods transported in consignments via post and courier mail. Two of the conclusions of the report underlined the lack of interest of right holders in taking actions, many counterfeit goods being thus released, and the lack of human resources. Some MS and the Commission took the floor for comments and suggestions. The Presidency gave a deadline for written observations on 25 July and announced that a revision would be issued and would be adopted through written procedure.

7. Business case JCO WAREHOUSE II

IT presented for adoption the Business case for JCO WAREHOUSE II, as set out in document 10259/1/14 REV 1 ENFOCUSTOM 68 RESTREINT UE. No further comments were made and the document was adopted.

8. AOB

Under this point, NL informed the delegates that an agreement on pre-clearance might be concluded with the US and a check point would be created on Amsterdam airport.
