



**Brussels, 4 November 2015  
(OR. en)**

**13305/15**

**JAI 779  
ENFOCUSTOM 108**

**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 20 October 2015  
To: Customs Cooperation Working Party (Experts)  
Subject: Summary of discussions (Experts)

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**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 4063/15.

**2. Information from the Presidency**

The Presidency briefed the delegates about the recently held events and meetings relevant for customs, amongst which:

- the debriefing for Joint Customs Operation Baltica (Poland, 17 September); Baltica was a regional JCO led by the Polish Customs Administration and OLAF, which involved 6 Member States (Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden) and Europol. It targeted the illegal import of tobacco products entering the EU;
- the meeting of Customs Directors at Europol, in the margins of European Police Chiefs Convention (24 September 2015), which brought together directors from customs agencies from 22 Member States and representatives from World Customs Organisation; they took stock of the level of cooperation existing between Europol and customs and explored ways to improve this cooperation;

- the meetings at Europol for the drafting of the new OAPs and the starting of the preparation for the next SOCTA cycle.

### **3. JCOs and other Customs operations: JCO Postbox Business Case (Action 7.3)**

The German delegation presented the Business Case for JCO Postbox (12712/15) for adoption. This Joint Customs Operation is planned in the framework of the CCWP project group on Action 7.3 - "Customs against Internet Crime (C@IC)", together with the DG HOME funded project "Illegal Trade on Online Marketplaces" (ITOM). It will target the smuggling of goods, especially narcotics and counterfeit goods, committed using the internet in any way. Written comments should be sent by 3 November 2015. A revised version of the Business Case could be presented during the CCWP Experts on 2 December 2015.

### **4. JCOs and other Customs operations : revised final report of Athena IV**

The Latvian delegation presented the revised final report on Joint Customs Operation Athena IV (6512/1/15 REV 1 + ADD 1 REV 1 RESTREINT UE). The revised report had already been adopted in the framework of the Mutual Assistance Committee on 3-4 June 2015; consequently it was adopted by CCWP Experts with no further discussions and modifications.

### **5. The use of Internet for criminal activities/Dark Web:**

- Project ITOM: Illegal Trade on Online Marketplaces
- Information about the project-group "Customs @gainst Internet Crime" (Action 7.3)
- Europol: Distribution of counterfeit euros - a common approach
- European Central Bank: Counterfeiting of money in the context of the Dark Web

The four speakers briefed the delegates about the different aspects relevant for customs area related to criminal activities committed via Internet and to the use of Dark Web: illegal trade of drugs, weapons and other illicit goods, easy transnational trade, anonymity, no physical contact between seller and buyer, sale of counterfeit currency or of elements necessary for the production of such counterfeit currency. The use of parcel delivery services or normal mail was underlined by all speakers as the main means of delivery. In this context, the speakers highlighted the need of cooperation between the different stakeholders who could contribute to combat such activities (police, customs, Internet companies etc) in the framework of a multidisciplinary approach.

## **6. AOB**

No item was raised under AOB.

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