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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 3 March 2016
To: Customs Cooperation Working Party (Experts)
Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 1519/16.

2. Information from the Presidency

The Presidency informed the Working Party of the main meetings with an impact on customs, referring in particular to the Conference on wildlife trafficking taking place from 1 to 3 March 2016 in the Hague, the COSI meeting on 3 and 4 March 2016, the NEC meeting planned for 24-26 May 2016, the WCO Enforcement and Technical Committee meetings in the period of 6 - 11 April 2016. The Presidency informed the Working Party also of some recent documents with an impact on customs, amongst which the 26 February 2016 Commission Communication on an EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, the 2 February 2016 Commission Communication on an Action Plan for strengthening the fight against terrorist financing, the publication of the UNODC-WCO Annual Report on the 2015 Container Control Programme.

3. Joint Police and Customs Operation "ARES"

The Working Party discussed the Business case for the JPCO ARES (Firearms) as set out in 6492/16. The Presidency informed the delegates that the proposal will be adopted jointly by the CCWP and the LEWP, where it will be discussed on 22 March 2016. Following the discussion in the two Working Parties, written comments should be sent by 30 March 2016, after which a revised proposal would be adopted via a written procedure. A briefing meeting scheduled for 22 April 2016 in Brussels.

4. Overview of the Joint Customs Operations and other operations

The Presidency distributed a REV 1 version of the update of the multi-annual overview of JCOs and other operations (5109/1/16 RESTREINT UE) and asked for delegates' comments on the revised version. The Commission shared the view that the document should put more focus on the actual operational year and specify the phases of the operations. The Presidency would prepare a revised version of the document reflecting the Commission's suggestion as well as any further comments that Member States would submit by 30 March 2016.

5. Revision of the Joint Customs Operations Guide: Tactical objectives for the Joint Customs Operations

The Presidency put forward for discussion the revision of the Joint Customs Operations Guide, and in particular the tactical objectives for the JCOs. The discussions were held on the basis of documents from 2014 and 2015 (DS 1155/1/14 and DS 1176/2/15), which have not identified the need to update or amend the current risk areas and tactical objectives as outlined in annex 2 of the JCOs Guide. The revision of the tactical objectives and risk areas is part of the annual revision of the Guide for JCOs. Member States were invited to provide additional comments if any by 30 March 2016. A new revised version will be submitted for adoption to CCWP Experts and subsequently to CCWP Plenary. After adoption, it will be included in the final document containing the revised Guide for JCOs.

6. Thematic use of expert groups and networks by CCWP

The Working Party had a discussion on the possible use of experts groups in the framework of the CCWP and the conditions for establishing such groups. The Presidency opened this discussion as several final reports for actions included in the Seventh Action Plan recommended the establishment of experts groups. The debate was based on a document prepared by the Presidency (6097/16) in an attempt to develop an appropriate framework for the functioning of such groups, in case they would be established. The Presidency invited Member States to send their written comments by 30 March 2016, following which it would put forward a proposal during the Plenary meeting of the CCWP on 14 April 2016.
