

Brussels, 17 January 2019 (OR. en)

5184/19

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council

On: 9 January 2019

To: Customs Cooperation Working Party

Subject: Summary of discussions

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as set out in CM 5862/1/18 REV 1 was adopted.

2. Information from the Presidency

The CCWP took note of the information provided by the Presidency on documents and past and upcoming meetings relevant to the work of the CCWP, as set out in WK 15744/18.

3. Priorities of the Romanian Presidency

The Presidency presented its priorities for the CCWP during the first semester of 2019:

- Approval of the Strategy for the future customs law enforcement
- Elaboration of the Situational Awareness Paper, as the baseline for the 10th Action Plan (2020-2021)
- Preparing the questionnaire for the 10th Action Plan

 Continue the work on enhancing the customs contribution to the internal security by strengthening the cooperation with FRONTEX, EUROPOL, OLAF, CEPOL

Meetings were planned for 9 January (Plenary), 7 February (Experts), 5 March (Plenary), 28 March (Experts), 10 April (Plenary), 21 May (1/2 day joint meeting with LEWP) and 18 June (Plenary).

4. Preparation of the Situational Awareness Paper (SAP)

The Presidency presented its proposal for the way forward for 2019, as set out in 5001/19. In view of getting a clear and complete picture of the main concerns and needs of national customs administrations and other stakeholders, direct consultation through a questionnaire is envisaged. The Presidency intends to revise the questionnaire previously used and expects it to be approved by CCWP in early March with a deadline for replies by the end of April. The Presidency proposed to form a project group with maximum seven members, which will compile and analyse the answers. During the second quarter of 2019, the Presidency will coordinate the work on drafting the Situational Awareness Paper which should be adopted at the meeting on 21 June 2019.

Delegations expressed their support for this proposed way forward and the <u>Finnish delegation</u> expressed its willingness to participate in the project group.

Delegations are invited to submit their comments by 4 February 2019 and to express their willingness to participate in the project group at the next CCWP meeting on 7 February 2019.

5. Action 9.5 Fight against IPR infringements

The Bulgarian delegation presented a questionnaire elaborated by the Project group under Action 9.5 "Fight against IPR infringements", as set out in 5002/19.

Delegations are invited to submit their comments by 16 January 2019. If there are no comments, the document will be considered approved.

6. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee: Second Action Plan to fight the illicit tobacco trade 2018-2022

OLAF gave a presentation on the Second Action Plan to fight the illicit tobacco trade 2018-2022, as set out in 15462/18 + ADD 1, which was followed by an exchange of views.

7. CELBET updated – main outcomes, current developments and future steps

CELBET (Customs Eastern and South-Eastern Land Border Expert Team) gave a presentation on its current and future activities.

8. The EU strategic approach for the reinforcement of customs controls of financial risks The Commission (DG TAXUD) presented the EU strategic approach for the reinforcement of customs controls of financial risks.

9. FRONTEX - Operational Activities in 2019

FRONTEX presented its operational activities in 2018 and 2019.

10. Six months report of the former Austrian Presidency

The former Austrian Presidency gave a presentation reporting on its work during the past six months.

11. Any other business

The Commission (DG TAXUD) raised the issue of communication of customs activities. It was suggested that delegations, whenever the activities of their national customs authorities were positively mentioned in the media, should send links to DG TAXUD so that this information could be communicated to the wider public through websites and social media.

The Presidency reminded the delegations to reply to the questionnaire under Action 9.4 "Fight against illicit cash movements", set out in CM 1014/19, by 1 February 2019.

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