



“Strengthening Customs’ role in implementing green trade policies for environmental protection”

Background

As governments are being requested to raise global ambitions to address urgent environmental problems and risks, they are increasingly turning to trade to find sustainability solutions.

Global value chains could be used to create positive linkages between countries that invest in sustainable production and those that are interested in sustainable consumption. In this connection, trade is increasingly recognized as a game changer in ensuring the transition of the global economy towards environmental sustainability and the circular economy.

To this end, good governance mechanisms and strengthened cooperation between Customs and other regulatory agencies at the border are essential in supporting environmentally friendly trade policies as well as an effective and equitable transition towards more sustainable and greener supply chains.

Leveraging trade to support the transition of the global economy toward sustainability requires not only a reorganization of business practices towards more corporate social responsibility but also a change in mindset to allow for the adaptation of regulatory approaches and operations.

In the case of Customs, this calls for a specific focus on new business models and reverse logistics, while strengthening the traditional role of Customs in enforcing trade restrictions and prohibitions aimed at protecting scarce natural resources that are essential for maintaining resilient ecosystems.

On other hand, the nexus between trade and the environmental protection also highlights the risks that illicit trade flows pose to the environment, involving specific control and monitoring requirements.

In facilitating and processing international trade, Customs administrations have a critical role to play in controlling the transboundary movement of environmental goods by supporting the effective implementation of various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The objectives of these MEAs include addressing the illicit trade in hazardous waste and ozone-depleting substances, combating the illicit trade in endangered species, and preventing the spread of plant and animal diseases, as well as of invasive alien species.

In this context, the exploration of possible approaches for facilitating the legal trade in environmental goods needs to consider not only the regulatory perspective, but also the technical requirements and the specificities of sustainable supply chains, including safety and security risks.

Pragmatic responses are needed to accelerate results, identify the gaps that call for more urgent action, and leverage the international tools that can contribute to shaping sustainable trade outcomes.

To that end, this Conference will draw together a wide range of stakeholders who will share their views and present proposals on strengthening Customs' role in implementing green trade policies for environmental protection. These proposals will centre around priorities and options for a proactive, inclusive and forward-looking WCO agenda for Green Customs that can help drive progress on the environmental related United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Objectives

- Framing the scope of the environmental debate in which Customs can play a major part and understanding how Customs can take further action and contribute to environmental objectives;
- Assessing stakeholder priorities and gathering proposals for a forward-looking WCO agenda on protecting the environment through trade and sustainable supply chains;
- Taking into account the perspective of developing countries;
- Defining gaps in international instruments and tools.

Format

The Conference will be held in person at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels. An online link will also be provided allowing the possibility for some participants who are unable to travel to observe the Conference remotely via an online platform (no active participation will be possible remotely).

Participants

The Conference is a multi-stakeholder event bringing together not only Customs administrations but also representatives of other international organizations, academia, the private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including environmental policy-makers and international experts. Free of charge, open to all.

Languages

English, French and Spanish

Green Customs Global Conference

“Strengthening Customs’ role in implementing green trade policies for environmental protection”

Time	Activity
<div>● Monday, 27 June 2022</div>	
10:00 – 10:10	<p>Opening</p> <p>Dr Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General</p>
10:10 – 10:50	<p>Keynote</p> <p>Mr Gerassimos Thomas, Director-General Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD), European Commission <i>Expectations for the Customs community</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
10:50 – 11:00	Coffee break offered by the WCO
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Panel 1: Circular economy</p> <p>Moderator: Ricardo Treviño Chapa, WCO Deputy Secretary General</p> <p>1. Dr Shardul Agrawala Head of Environment and Economy Integration Division, Environment Directorate, OECD <i>Trade and circular economy linkages</i></p> <p>2. Antoine Oger Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) co-author with the Chatham house of the report <i>Trade for an inclusive circular economy - A framework for collective action</i></p> <p>3. Stephan Freismuth Director EU-Trade, Tax and Finance Policy, Governmental Affairs and External Relations Europe (AK-43-EU) BMW Group. <i>How can value chain transparency foster the Circular Economy</i></p> <p>4. Ross Bartley Trade & Environment Director, Bureau of International Recycling. <i>A circular economy for used goods and recyclable materials</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch offered by the WCO

Time	Activity
14:00 – 14:30	<p>Side event: Global deforestation and sustainable supply chain: the role of Customs</p> <p>Moderator: Anton Huitema, Timber-Trafficking & CITES Expert CCP LEAP, UNODC-WCO</p> <p>1. Anke Schulmeister-Oldenhove</p> <p>Senior Forest Policy Officer, WWF European Policy Office</p> <p><i>Trends about global deforestation and trade, the role of soft commodities and traceability</i></p> <p>2. Michael Rice</p> <p>Lawyer, Forest-risk Commodities, Client Earth</p> <p><i>Comparison of emerging legislation to control deforestation associated with soft commodity supply chains</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
14:30 – 16:30	<p>Panel 2: Cross-border movement of waste: Case Studies</p> <p>Moderator: Ernesto Bianchi, OLAF (Director, Revenue and International Operations - Investigations & Strategy)</p> <p>1. Soma Baskoro</p> <p>Enforcement and Investigation Division - Indonesia Customs</p> <p><i>National Experience from the WCO Asia Pacific Plastic Waste Project Implementation</i></p> <p>2. Martina Kavanagh</p> <p>Executive Program Manager, Import Compliance Office - EMEA IBM</p> <p><i>Challenges with Cross Border trading of Remanufactured Goods</i></p> <p>3. Tom Gammage</p> <p>Ocean Campaigner, Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)</p> <p><i>Cross-border movement of waste: a focus on plastic waste trade</i></p> <p>4. Dave Serneels</p> <p>Risk Analyst, Belgian Customs and Excise</p> <p><i>Role of Belgian Customs in Demeter operations</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
16:30 – 16:40	Summary and closing of Day 1
16:40	Cocktail offered by the WCO

Time	Activity
10:00 – 10:10	<p>Opening</p> <p>Ricardo Treviño Chapa, WCO Deputy Secretary General</p>
10:10 – 12:10	<p>Panel 3: From policy to implementation: the HS and other Customs Trade Measures</p> <p>Moderator: Konstantinos Kaiopoulos, WCO Director of Tariff and Trade Affairs</p> <p>1. Ronald Steenblik</p> <p>Senior Fellow, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)</p> <p><i>Trade in environmental goods: Attempts to define an Environmental Goods Agreement and the HS connection</i></p> <p>2. Dr. Carolyn Deere Birkbeck</p> <p>Director, Forum on Trade, Environment & the SDGs (TESS)</p> <p><i>HS classifications and trade data as vital tools for environmentally sustainable trade: Priorities and options for future work</i></p> <p>3. Melisa Lim</p> <p>Programme management officer, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions</p> <p><i>Making the HS work for regulating the trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes</i></p> <p>4. Konstantinos Kaiopoulos</p> <p>WCO Director of Tariff and Trade Affairs</p> <p><i>Beyond HS 2022</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
12:10 – 13:10	Lunch break
13:10 – 15:10	<p>Panel 4: Paving the way to Green Customs: what can Customs do or will have to do?</p> <p>Moderator: Brenda Smith, Global Director of Government Outreach- Expeditors</p> <p>1. Jean-Marie Paugam</p> <p>WTO Deputy Director-General</p> <p><i>New WTO Environmental Initiatives: what future challenges and opportunities for green customs</i></p> <p>2. Ian Saunders</p> <p>Deputy Assistant Secretary, US Department of Commerce</p> <p><i>Other agency partnerships with the private sector and to CBP's Green Customs Initiative</i></p>

Time	Activity
	<p>3. Francesca Poggiali</p> <p>Chief Public Policy Officer, Europe GS1</p> <p><i>The impact of digital product passport on green custom form a standardisation perspective; main regional trends.</i></p> <p>4. Dr. Boriana Rukanova</p> <p>Senior Researcher, Delft University of Technology</p> <p>and Frank Heijmann</p> <p>Head of Trade Relations, Customs Administration of The Netherlands</p> <p><i>Green Customs Framework and Cases (PEN-CP Annual study) and Extended Data Pipeline for Circular Economy Monitoring</i></p> <p>5. Jackline Wanjiru</p> <p>Associate Legal Officer, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)</p> <p><i>Green Customs Initiative: Way forward for MEAs and expectations on Customs</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
15:10 – 15:30	<p>Closing</p> <p>Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General</p>