



World Customs Organization

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EMERGENCY OPERATION “STOP”

“THE WCO'S RESPONSE TO ILLICIT TRAFFICKING LINKED TO COVID-19”

WEBINAR FOR THE RELEASE OF THE OPERATION STOP FINAL REPORT

6 October 2020

1:00 to 4:00 p.m. (Brussels time)

Venue: KUDO Platform

DRAFT AGENDA

I. Background

- Operation STOP was implemented from 11 May to 12 July 2020 with the aim of enhancing cooperation between 99 Customs Administrations, in cooperation with the Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs), International Organizations (INTERPOL, UNODC, Europol, OLAF, WHO) and various private sector actors, focusing on counterfeit/illicit medicines and medical supplies. The Operation aimed at conducting simultaneous inspections of consignments that might contain certain types of counterfeit/illicit pharmaceutical products and items of medical equipment linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, which could pose a threat to public health and safety.
- STOP was an emergency operational response implemented at short-term notice. It demonstrated the agility of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and its Members to address the challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Operation also highlighted the importance of Customs as the first line of defense against counterfeit and substandard products which severely impact the well-being of citizens and the trust and confidence in the medical supply chain.

II. Objectives of the event

- The objective of this Webinar is to provide a comprehensive summary of the outcomes of the Operation by highlighting Members' and other stakeholders' efforts to in the successful implementation of this initiative.
- After the presentation of the overall results, speakers will present specific aspects of the Operation (testimonies from participants, private sector involvement, the way forward to tackle illicite trade related to COVID-19). They will also address the main challenges encountered and consider potential future options to tackle illicit trade in the context of COVID-19.
- The Webinar will be chaired by Mr Stevan JONES, UK Border Force.

III. Target audience

- WCO Member administrations and the RILO Network.
- International organizations contributing to the Operation (INTERPOL, UNODC, Europol, OLAF and WHO) and others International organizations.
- Private sector representatives involved in the Operation: NOVARTIS, SERVIER, PFIZER, SANOFI and UL.
- Other stakeholders.

IV. Webinar agenda: 6 October 2020, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. (Brussels time)

1:40-1:55: Connection and technical arrangement

2:00- 2.05: Opening remarks

WCO I OMD

Mr. Stefan KIRSCH, Deputy Director, Compliance WCO

2:05 - 2:15: Keynote address
Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General WCO

2:15 –2:30: Outcomes of Operation STOP
Mr. Maurice Adéfalou, Technical Officer, WCO IPR, Health and Safety Programme
Manager/ Yusuke Inoue, Technical Attaché WCO

2:30 –2:40: Video break

2:40 –3:20: Testimonies from Operation STOP participants
(Each testimony is limited to 5 minutes)

WCO Member:

- Namibia Customs
- Peru Customs Administration
- Togo Revenue Authority
- China Customs Administration

WCO RILO

- Western Europe
 - Commonwealth of Independent States
- TBC

International organizations (1 representative)

- INTERPOL/ OLAF

Private Sector (1 representative)

- NOVARTIS/SERVIER/ PFIZER/SANOFI/UL

3:20 – 3:40 Round table discussion on illicit trade related to COVID-19 and the way forward

Mr. Norbert Steilen, WCO Senior Technical Officer

3:55- 4:00 Closing remarks

Mr. Pranab Kumar DAS, Director of Compliance and Facilitation, WCO

V. Useful information

- Links to join the session via the KUDO Platform will be communicated at a later stage to the delegates that have registered for the meeting on the event dedicated webpage on the WCO Website.
- Participating in WCO virtual meetings (KUDO User Guide) : http://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/member/global/pdf/meetings/kudo/2020_08_24-wco-virtual-meeting-user-guide_kudo.pdf?la=en
- Reference is made to the WCO dedicated web page related to COVID-19: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/facilitation/activities-and-programmes/natural-disaster/coronavirus.aspx>