



CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY OF THE 9TH ASEM CUSTOMS DIRECTORS GENERAL/COMMISSIONERS MEETING HUA HIN, 11-12 OCTOBER 2011

INTRODUCTION

1. The 9th ASEM Customs Directors-General/Commissioners Meeting took place in Hua Hin, Thailand on 11-12 October 2011. The Meeting was attended by the Heads of Customs Administrations and Senior Customs Officials from 35 ASEM Members, as well as the Council of the European Union and the World Customs Organisation as observers. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Somchai Poolsavasdi, Director-General of Thai Customs.
2. The Meeting was officially opened by Mr. Somchai Poolsavasdi, Director-General of Thai Customs.

INTER-SESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ASEM

3. The Meeting took note the reports given by Belgium on the 8th ASEM Summit held in Brussels and by China on the ASEM Customs Seminar on Trade Security and Facilitation held in China. The presentations by Viet Nam on the 1st ASEM Customs-Trade-Day and the 4th ASEM Working Group on Customs Matters (AWC) Meeting held in Ha Noi, and by the Netherlands on the 2nd ASEM Customs-Trade-Day and the 5th AWC Meeting held in Utrecht, the Netherlands were also endorsed.

ASEM AWC ACTION PLANS: REPORTS OF ACTION COORDINATORS

Trade Facilitation & Supply Chain Security

4. Japan presented the main findings and recommendations from the “Gaps and Needs Analysis” survey carried out by Japan and the UK. The main findings focused on the compatibility with the WCO SAFE FoS and compatibility with each other programmes e.g. objectives, beneficiaries, benefits, etc. and identified some best practices. The Meeting took note of the presentation by Japan and endorsed the recommendations and follow up actions provided in the summary paper of “Gaps and Needs Analysis” for the next phase of work in 2012-2013.

5. Korea reported the results of the surveys examining the difficulties and needs in relation to implementation of the TFAP Deliverables 2010-2012. The new TFAP Deliverables for 2012-2014 were then proposed with some changes as compared to the previous one. These were: simplification of titles, references to the Best Practices Papers and the new Deliverables concerning “Customs Enforcement (14)”. The Meeting took note of the report made by Korea and adopted the TFAP 2012-2014 with some amendments as follows:
 - deleting Deliverable 5(2);
 - revising Deliverable 7(2) to read "Implementation of the WCO Customs Data Model including discussion on the concept of a global traders identification."
 - revising Deliverable 9(3) to read 'Provision of one-stop shop for receipt of documents and/or information and dissemination as a best endeavor'

Involving Business

6. Sweden made a presentation on “Good Practices for Dialogue with Traders”, providing a summary on the different trade engagement practices of ASEM members and their recommendations for good practice on trade engagement based on the survey findings. The Meeting took note of the presentation by Sweden and endorsed the recommendations and follow up actions by AWC for the next phase of work in this area. In addition, it was agreed that the Customs Trade Day should be continued in 2012 to 2014.
7. Singapore briefed the Meeting on the TradeFirst programme. The Meeting was informed that the programme supports Singapore Customs trade facilitation and risk management efforts by enabling it to assess a company holistically, based on a single set of assessment criteria integrating AEO security requirements. Under the Trade First Programme, companies will be rated into one of five bands, which determines all the schemes and facilitation that they could enjoy. The companies benefit from having account managers assigned by Customs, and undergoing only one assessment instead of several. The Meeting then took note of the presentation made by Singapore.

Combating Infringement on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

8. OLAF presented the main findings and outcomes of the Second Joint Customs Operation (JCO) “DIABOLO II” and invited the Meeting to provide guidance on the way forward regarding a new JCO. The Meeting endorsed the final report and the recommendations of the JCO “DIABOLO II”. European Commission (OLAF) was designated as coordinator and tasked to submit a draft proposal for business case for the next JCO for approval by the next AWC Meeting in 2012. In addition, it was also agreed that the AWC should monitor and follow the next JCO and report to the 10th ASEM Customs Directors General/Commissioners Meeting.
9. Germany presented the evaluation of the questionnaire on Customs IPR enforcement and the drafted paper on “ASEM Good Practice on Customs IPR Enforcement”. The Meeting took note the presentation by Germany and endorsed the recommendations and follow up actions as proposed in the paper on “ASEM Good Practice on Customs IPR Enforcement” for 2012-2013.

Protection of Society and Environment

10. The consultant company, Donal O’Laoire, made a presentation on the results of the study on the role of Customs in enforcing environmental law, focusing on the export of waste from EU to Asian ASEM countries. A proposal and a number of recommendations have been made in the study. The Meeting took note the results of the study conducted by the consultancy company.
11. Cambodia presented the state of play paper on “Best Practices / Customs Role in Enforcement the Environmental Law” which extracted from the above study. The Meeting took note and endorsed the paper and its proposed recommendations and follow up actions.

ORIENTATION, PRIORITIES AND ORGANISATION OF FUTURE WORK OF ASEM AWC

12. European Commission (EC) submitted a contribution paper to the Meeting and made a presentation proposing orientations, priorities, and organization for future ASEM Customs work. It was suggested that the AWC continued to work on the same basis and

organisation as agreed for 2012-2013. The work done by the coordinators should be taken forward and recommendations implemented. The policy priorities agreed in Heraklion are still valid and should continue to be taken forward, focusing on the following priority areas: Trade facilitation and security of supply chain, Combating counterfeiting, Protecting society and the environment, and Involving business. The Meeting endorsed the contribution paper proposed by EC. Seven concrete activities were agreed by the meeting in these areas and the Action Coordinators were identified as follows:

No	Actions	Coordinators	
1.	TFAP on Customs matters	Korea	EC-TAXUD
2.	Proceed with new ASEM Joint Customs Operation	All members provide input	EC (OLAF)
3.	Summary document on the routing and distribution of counterfeit goods	Thailand	UK
4.	Overview of good practices on forms of cooperation with private sector (rightholders)	India	UK
5.	Examine the role customs can play and identify good practice in support of sustainable forest management	India	EC-TAXUD
6.	Further develop model for Dialogue with Trader	Singapore	Sweden
7.	Follow up on implementation of AEO recommendations.	Japan	Poland

UPDATE ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

13. WCO updated the Meeting on WCO activities concerning trade facilitation, Globally Networked Customs (GNC), social protection, revenue package, capacity building, Customs-business partnership, and governance. The Meeting took note the presentation by WCO.

14. Korea made a presentation on Present and Future of AEO and IPR Protection Strategy of KCS in order to share experiences with the members. The Meeting took note the presentation by Korea.

VISIBILITY OF ASEM

15. Japan proposed the Meeting to unify the AWC Website and ASEM infoboard to increase visibility and make it more user-friendly. The Meeting endorsed the proposal by Japan and the Chair encouraged all members to provide information on AWC and Trade-Day to ASEM infoboard when they host the events in the future.

FUTURE MEETING

16. The Meeting was informed that the Czech Republic will host the 7th AWC Meeting during the first semester of 2013. For the rest of the meetings, Asian and EU sides will discuss the issue among themselves and inform the result of discussion later on.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17. EU consulted the Meeting on working arrangement with the 3rd group members, namely Australia, New Zealand and Russia. The Meeting agreed to integrate the three new members on the Asian side as they belong to APEC and the number of members between Asia and Europe will be balanced.

APPROVAL OF CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY OF THE 9TH ASEM CUSTOMS DGs/COMMISSIONERS MEETING AND HUA HIN DECLARATION

18. The Meeting adopted the Chairman's Summary of the 9th ASEM Customs DGs/Commissioners Meeting and the Hua Hin Declaration.