



## THE HUA HIN DECLARATION

We, the Directors General/Commissioners of the Customs Administrations of ASEM Member States, met in Hua Hin, Thailand on 11-12 October 2011, under the Chairmanship of the Director-General of Thai Customs, Mr. Somchai Poolsavasdi,

- REALISING that ASEM is confronted with the dynamics of the 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges as well as exposed to the weakness in the global economy, where issues have become more complex, multifaceted, transnational, increasingly interlinked and interdependent;
- RECOGNISING that Customs Administrations play a vital role in addressing those challenges and the growth of international trade and the development of the global marketplace;
- FULLY DETERMINED to make every effort to take forward ASEM Customs Cooperation to continue developing a shared vision, best practices and coordinated action on issues of common interest and concern in order to build and strengthen the ASEM Customs relationship in a spirit of mutual respect, equal partnership, and driven by its members;
- CONFIRMING the need to make further progress in the priority areas agreed at the last DGs/Commissioners Meeting in Heraklion:
  - Trade Facilitation and Supply Chain Security
  - Combating Infringement on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
  - Protecting Society and the Environment
  - Involving Business;
- ACKNOWLEDGING the successful involvement and contribution of business into the ASEM Customs fora;
- RECOGNISING that counterfeit goods remains a global problem requiring action in the form of even closer Customs collaboration among the ASEM

members with involvement of the private sector, in particular rightholders and taking into account new challenges, such as Internet sales;

- ACKNOWLEDGING the results achieved by ASEM members in setting up national AEO programmes and confirming the need to continue working on AEO implementation and mutual recognition compatible with the WCO SAFE Framework, including discussion on a global trader identification number;
- NOTING that during the ASEM 8 Summit, sustainability has become a guiding principle putting increased attention on the protection of the environment and in particular sustainable forest management;
- RECOGNISING that it is now time to adapt the ASEM Customs cooperation with a view to focus on development of best practices, compatible and transparent systems and achievement of sustainable results;

AGREED to focus on the following activities for the next two years (2012-2013)

1) Trade Facilitation and Security of the Supply Chain

- Follow-up on implementation of AEO recommendations, share experience on the mutual recognition process and compatibility of IT systems and contribute to the discussion on the concept of global trader identification in line with the WCO SAFE Working Group and Data Model; and
- Review the Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP) on Customs matters to cover the next period 2014-2016 and recommend TFAP 2012-2014 to Ministers.

2) Combating Counterfeiting and Customs IPR Enforcement

- Prepare a detailed overview of good practices on forms of cooperation between ASEM Customs authorities and the private sector, in particular the right holders;
- Prepare a summary document on the routing and distribution of counterfeit goods, based on ASEM Customs authorities' analyses and experiences of ASEM Customs and right holders' contribution; and

- Proceed with the implementation of the next ASEM Joint Customs Operation (JCO) which is mutually agreed by participating Customs administrations and subject to national laws.

3) Protecting the Society and the Environment

- Examine the role Customs can play and identify good practice in support of sustainable forest management, the fight against illegal logging and the EU FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade) Action Plan.

4) Involving Business

- Continue to organise regular "ASEM Customs-Trade-Day" back to back to the AWC Meeting, to give the opportunity to the ASEM business community to discuss priorities and input.
- Continue to develop the dialogue with traders, taking into account the Paper on Good Practice on Dialogue with Traders

We, the DGs/Commissioners of the Customs Administrations of the ASEM Member States, will make every effort possible to implement the above agreed activities and to promote their visibility, convinced that they will lead to fruitful initiatives and outcomes and agree to evaluate results achieved at our next Meeting.