



Russian Federation
Vice-Chair of the Europe Region
of the World Customs Organization
2018 - 2019



WCO EUROPE REGION

-
Heads of Customs
Conference

-
Saint Petersburg
April 24-26, 2019

DRAFT

Agenda Item № 7

Other topical issues discussed in the framework of the WCO

– E-commerce

Topic of E-commerce is among the most relevant and priority one, not only for the Europe Region, but also for all the Customs Administrations around the world. It affects all segments of the population in different countries, ensures further globalization of trade and the integration of various types of business.

Given the unprecedented growth in international e-commerce and the role of customs in these processes, the WCO has already developed a package of measures, standards and common regulatory approaches in this area.

The Framework for Cross-Border Electronic Commerce adopted in 2018 has been further revised including updated technical specifications and applications.

Actions required:

Take note of the information provided and present comments/proposal on the issues under consideration, as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

1. The Working Group on E-commerce has done a great job in the past intersessional period. All Members efforts are aimed at harmonizing approaches to the customs administration of e-commerce, facilitating legitimate trade and effective customs control, minimizing the risks of violations of customs legislation. Many aspects were adjusted unanimously (technical specifications, basic definitions within the WCO).
 2. It should be noted that the national regulatory and legislative framework of countries is developed on the basis of WCO tools and mechanisms.
 3. The WCO is also closely following the work carried out at the WTO site in the light of discussions on the trade aspects of e-commerce. However, it should be noted that this topic is directly related to the movement of goods across the customs borders and therefore the WCO remains in the position of a leading organization that is competent in this matter. This was repeatedly confirmed during meetings in Brussels.
 4. Ensuring a sustainable balance between the necessary level of security of international supply chains and the simplification of customs procedures is one of the main priorities for the Europe Region Customs Administrations. Naturally, e-commerce is the subject of increased attention WCO Member States.
 5. At the same time, WCO tools and mechanisms allow standardizing approaches to the development of e-commerce in close cooperation with international organizations. Customs Administrations have the opportunity to contribute to the development of this trade channel and ensure the flexibility and adaptation of future developments and new business models.
 6. The recent discussions of the last sessions of the Working Group on E-Commerce and the Permanent Technical Committee in February-March 2019 determined the nature of the discussions at the upcoming meetings of both the political and technical bodies of the WCO.
 7. In this regard, the WCO Europe Region Heads of Customs Conference will have an opportunity to discuss and, if possible, to develop a unified approaches to the upcoming approval in June 2019 of an updated version of the Cross-Border E-commerce Framework of Standards.
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