



Brussels, 24 July 2017.

DECISION OF THE COUNCIL No. 283*

85th/86th Sessions - June 1995

REGIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

THE COUNCIL,

RECOGNIZING that although the World Customs Organization is, and must remain, a truly world-wide body and not a federation of regional blocs, the existence of a regional structure provides practical assistance in :

- ensuring the permanent presence of the WCO in each region of the world;
- ensuring that the WCO is kept informed of regional interests;
- promoting greater involvement of Members in WCO activities;
- encouraging non-Members to join the WCO;
- establishing close co-operation with regional organizations working in the Customs field;
- promoting co-operation between the Members in each region;

DECIDES as follows :

1. The regional structure established by the Council in 1986, and modified by the Council in 1989, shall be maintained. The six regions are :

North of Africa, Near and Middle East;

West and Central Africa;

East and Southern Africa;

South America, North America, Central America and the Caribbean;

*** This Decision is reissued each year, with the Annex updated to include new Members.**

Europe;

Far East, South and South East Asia, Australasia and the Pacific Islands.

2. The six Vice-Chairpersons of the Council, as the representatives of their respective regions, may perform the following functions in particular :
 - identifying regional requirements in respect of WCO activities;
 - identifying potential facilities and support for such activities;
 - assisting in making arrangements for seminars, training sessions, etc.;
 - obtaining the views of Members in their regions for presentation at Policy Commission meetings;
 - as appropriate, representing the WCO at meetings of international bodies in their regions;
 - arranging periodic regional meetings to foster WCO activities and hold discussions on subjects of common interest to Members in their regions.
3. The existence of the regional structure and the arrangements for regional representation shall not impede or supplant direct bilateral communications between national administrations and the Secretariat.
4. Each Member of the WCO shall belong to a region. The Annex to this Decision lists the Members by region. Members that join the WCO in the future shall be assigned to the region most appropriate to their geographical location and their economic and other affinities, if necessary after consultations between regions.

V. STRACHAN,
Chairperson.

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Position as at 30 June 2017 (182 Members)

<u>REGION : NORTH OF AFRICA, NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST</u>		
Algeria	Lebanon	Saudi Arabia
Bahrain	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Sudan
Egypt	Morocco	Syrian Arab Republic
Iraq	Oman	Tunisia
Jordan	Palestine	United Arab Emirates
Kuwait	Qatar	Yemen
<u>REGION : WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA</u>		
Benin	Congo (Republic of the)	Mali
Burkina Faso	Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritania
Cameroon	Gabon	Niger
Cape Verde	Gambia	Nigeria
Central African Republic	Ghana	Sao Tome and Principe
Chad	Guinea	Senegal
Congo (Democratic Republic of the)	Guinea-Bissau	Sierra Leone
	Liberia	Togo
<u>REGION : EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA</u>		
Angola	Lesotho	Somalia
Botswana	Madagascar	South Africa
Burundi	Malawi	South Sudan
Comoros	Mauritius	Swaziland
Djibouti	Mozambique	Tanzania
Eritrea	Namibia	Uganda
Ethiopia	Rwanda	Zambia
Kenya	Seychelles	Zimbabwe
<u>REGION : SOUTH AMERICA, NORTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</u>		
Antigua and Barbuda	Costa Rica	Mexico
Argentina	Cuba	Nicaragua
Bahamas	Curaçao	Panama
Barbados	Dominican Republic	Paraguay
Belize	Ecuador	Peru
Bermuda	El Salvador	Saint Lucia
Bolivia	Guatemala	Trinidad and Tobago
Brazil	Guyana	United States
Canada	Haiti	Uruguay
Chile	Honduras	Venezuela
Colombia	Jamaica	

<u>REGION : EUROPE</u>		
Albania	Germany	Poland
Andorra	Greece	Portugal
Armenia	Hungary	Romania
Austria	Iceland	Russian Federation
Azerbaijan	Ireland	Serbia
Belarus	Israel	Slovakia
Belgium	Italy	Slovenia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kazakhstan	Spain
Bulgaria	Kosovo	Sweden
Croatia	Kyrgyzstan	Switzerland
Cyprus	Latvia	Tajikistan
Czech Republic	Lithuania	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Denmark	Luxembourg	Turkey
Estonia	Malta	Turkmenistan
European Union*	Moldova	Ukraine
Finland	Montenegro	United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	Uzbekistan
Georgia	Norway	
<u>REGION : FAR EAST, SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA, AUSTRALASIA AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS</u>		
Afghanistan (Islamic Republic of)	Japan	Philippines
Australia	Korea (Republic of)	Samoa
Bangladesh	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Singapore
Bhutan	Macau, China	Sri Lanka
Brunei Darussalam	Malaysia	Thailand
Cambodia	Maldives	Timor-Leste
China	Mongolia	Tonga
Fiji	Nepal	Union of Myanmar (Republic of the)
Hong Kong, China	New Zealand	Vanuatu
India	Pakistan	Vietnam
Indonesia	Papua New Guinea	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)		

* Status akin to WCO membership.