



NEWSLETTER

Regional Office for Capacity Building for the World Customs Organization

2021/Q4

INSIDE THE EDITION

1. [Virtual Workshop on the HS 2022 Implementation Held for WCO Europe Region](#)
2. [11th Meeting of the Regional Structures of WCO Europe Region Held in Kyrgyzstan](#)
3. [Discussions Held on priorities of WCO](#)
4. [ROCB Europe and WCO Europe Region Vice-Chair Consult on Issues of Regional Importance](#)
5. [Ukraine Customs on Visit to Spain for Canine Services](#)
6. [WCO Europe Subregional Virtual Workshop on Integrity](#)
7. [Successful Training on Criminal Intelligence Held at the ROCB Europe](#)
8. [Delegation from Kyrgyzstan at ROCB Europe for Consultation on Further Cooperation](#)
9. [Development of Bilateral Cooperation between ROCB Europe and the Ukraine Customs](#)
10. [A Virtual Meeting on Strategic Analysis and Planning Held with RTC Khmelnytskyi](#)
11. [20th Anniversary of RTC Budapest Celebrated](#)
12. [Practical Training for the National Customs Laboratory of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
13. [Training on Imports of Non-food Products of Animal Origin Received by Georgia Customs](#)
14. [Kyrgyzstan Accedes the Revised Kyoto Convention](#)
15. [Knowledge Improvement: ROCB Europe E-Training Module](#)



Virtual Workshop on HS 2022 Implementation for the WCO Europe Region



A Virtual Regional Workshop on “Amendments to the Harmonized System 2022” for Customs Administrations of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Europe Region was held from 1 to 3 December 2021.

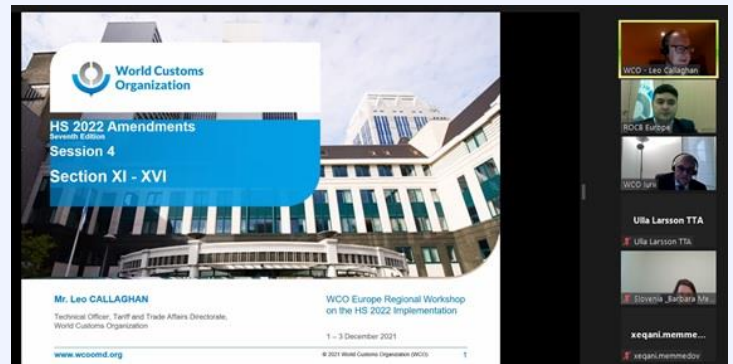
The WCO Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, in collaboration with the Regional Office for Capacity Building for the World Customs Organization Europe Region (ROCB Europe), delivered the workshop providing comprehensive explanation on the scope of the Harmonized System (HS) 2022 amendments, as well as the background to their development.

64

**Customs officers from
29
WCO Member
Administrations
represented in the
Workshop**

Such an understanding will facilitate the implementation of the new HS edition at the national level and will contribute to the fair and efficient collection of customs duties.

The participants expressed their satisfaction and appreciation for the information shared at the Workshop, and stated that the Workshop has improved their understanding of the amendments of the HS and would help their administrations to implement the HS 2022 editions effectively and in a timely manner.



The Workshop also included a presentation from the WCO Publication Service on the WCO Trade Tools, which is a new WCO database providing a single point of access to the information on the HS, Origin and Valuation. The WCO Trade Tools makes it easy to compare HS 2017 and HS 2022.



11th Meeting of Regional Structures of WCO Europe Region Held in Kyrgyzstan

12-15 October 2021 in Bishkek/ Kyrgyz Republic

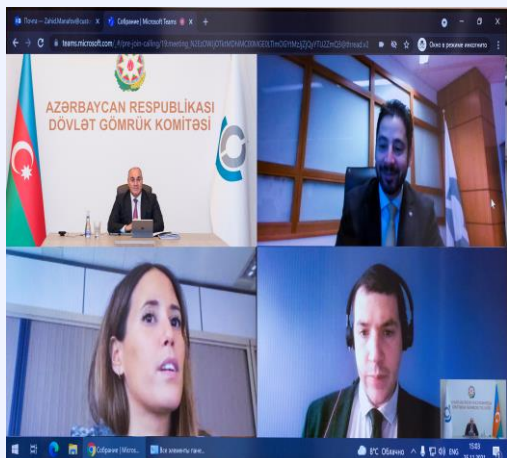
11th Meeting of the Regional Structures of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Europe Region was held on 12-15 October 2021. The meeting, organized by the Regional Office for Capacity Building for the World Customs Organization Europe Region (ROCB Europe), was hosted by Regional Training Center (RTC) in Bishkek of the State Customs Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic with support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek. The event was attended by WCO Secretariat, Regional Training Centers of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine and ROCB Europe. The participants were informed an overview of the ongoing work of the WCO Secretariat, especially virtual reality (VR) technologies and the BACUDA project with noting that the aim of the BACUDA project is to develop various data analysis methodologies, including algorithms in open-source programming languages, in cooperation with customs officers and researchers.



During the presentation on the activities and initiatives of the ROCB Europe, participants were briefed on recent activities of the Office as well as initiatives taken in terms of institutional development, improve coordination between regional structures and stakeholders in the region to make better use of available human resources and implement customs activities. Representatives of regional training centers, through presentations,

gave detailed information about their activities and current situation. The participants also evaluated the activities of RTCs and exchanged views on the challenges they face and opportunities to be captured along with opinions and suggestions on how to move forward on further development of the RTCs as well as on the possible ways for planning in order to enhance the functionality and monitoring the performances in a structured manner.

Discussions were held on the top priorities of the Strategic Plan for 2022-2025



Chairman of the State Customs Committee, customs service Colonel-General Safar Mehdiyev and Deputy Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Ricardo Treviño Chapa held a virtual meeting on November 25. Discussions were held on the top

priorities of the Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 set to be submitted to WCO Political Commission this December.

It was said that the Strategic Plan envisaged a balanced approach to the areas where the main focus should be on ensuring the sustainability of the WCO. This plan aims at improving the overall approach through regional consultations, while maintaining the substance of the previous plan and continuing the positive aspects identified in the process of its implementation.

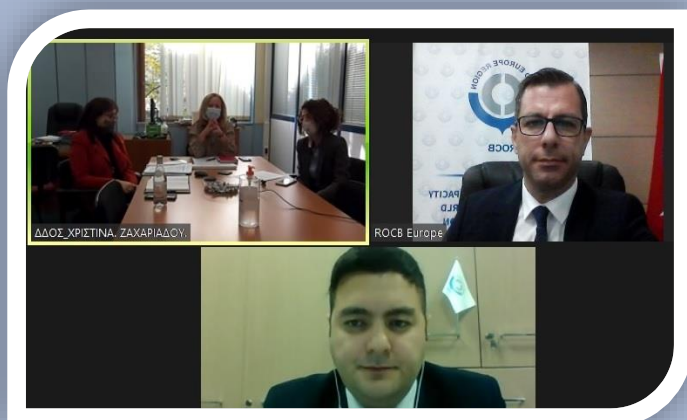
Analysis of digital customs and data; e-commerce; exchange of information; customs on guard of climate and environment; "One-stop shop" and coordinated border management; improvement of internal management; revised Kyoto Convention; harmonic system and other proposals were put forward in the opinions of member states, including Azerbaijan regarding the priorities of the Strategic Plan.

Kyrgyzstan Accedes the Revised Kyoto Convention

On 17 November, Dr. Kunio Mikuriya, the Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO), in his capacity as the depositary of the Convention, received the Instrument of accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Revised Kyoto Convention - RKC) from H.E Mr. Muktar Djumaliev, the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Kingdom of Belgium at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.



ROCB Europe and WCO Europe Region Vice-Chair Consult on Issues of Regional Importance



A virtual meeting was held between the Regional Office for Capacity Building for the World Customs Organization Europe Region (ROCB Europe) and the Office of the WCO Europe Region Vice-Chair on 25 November 2021. Issues of common interest and topics in the frame of regional matters were taken into consideration during the consultative meeting.

It was noted during the consultation that there is great potential to support the successful development of the countries of the region in the field of customs, to deepen cooperation in capacity building, and it is in the interests of both sides to use these opportunities and conduct regular exchanges of experience. It was stressed that cooperation between the two sides is based on good foundations and set the stage for further development, with the emphasis on vitality of cooperation in capacity building for WCO Europe region.

Ukraine Customs on Visit to Spain for Canine Services

The main purpose of the visit taken place from 22 to 26 November 2021 was to get acquainted with the organization of training of canine teams of Spanish Civil Guard, the procedure for their involvement to control measures at the state border, joint use of canine teams and modern technical means of control, as well as coordination of the procedure for involving experts of the Civil Guard to the training of dog handlers of the State Customs Service of Ukraine and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.



WCO Europe Subregional Virtual Workshop on Integrity

On the initiative of the WCO and with support from the Regional Office for Capacity Building for the Europe region, the SECO-WCO Global Trade Facilitation Programme (GTFP) organized a WCO Europe Sub-regional Virtual Workshop on Integrity from 6 to 8 December 2021.

With over 25 participants from 11 countries, this three-day Workshop allowed Customs Administrations to discuss at a sub-regional level the importance of implementing Integrity measures and their key role in trade facilitation. In addition, it provided a space for Customs Administrations to share their national experiences on the implementation of Transparency and Predictability measures and the progress achieved through the implementation of the Revised Arusha Declaration, with the support of the WCO and other development partners.

During this event, a diverse set of panelists and moderators from member Customs Administrations from the region, international organisations, as well as a pool of WCO technical officers and experts, addressed the vital importance of Integrity and exchanged ideas on concrete initiatives to promote transparency and predictability, and through that, trade facilitation.

Training on Criminal Intelligence

A training on criminal intelligence was held from 14 to 19 November 2021 for Azerbaijan Customs at the Regional Office for Capacity Building of the World Customs Organization (ROCB Europe). The training is part of the Global Container Control Program, a joint project of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organization. It should be noted that since 2011, numerous trainings have been organized under the "Global Container Control Program" joined by Azerbaijan, and trainings on these topics are organized in various countries around the world. It is noted that the main goals set for the customs authorities, the achievements in the fight against smuggling in Azerbaijan in recent years, the Committee's constant use of advanced technologies to fulfill these tasks opened.



Delegation from Kyrgyzstan at ROCB Europe for Consultation on Further Cooperation

A meeting was held at the European Regional Office for Capacity Building of the World Customs Organization on 2 November 2021 that attended by representatives of the State Customs Service under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic including Regional Training Center in Bishkek, the OSCE Program Office in Bishkek and ROCB Europe team.



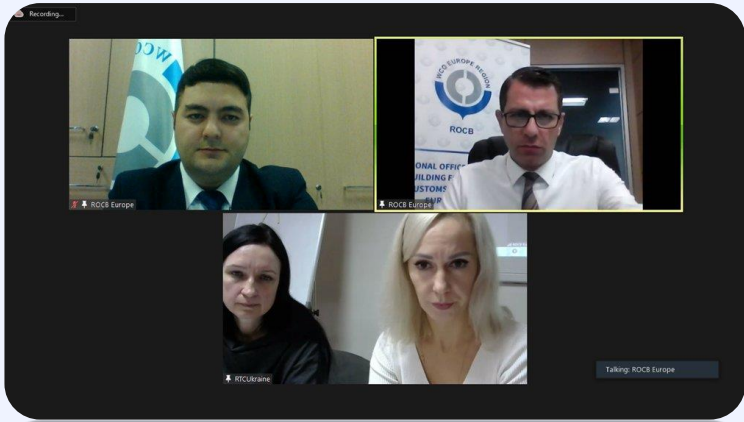
During the meeting it was noted that cooperation was developing at a high level, confidence was expressed in the further deepening of the relations, and views were exchanged on other issues of mutual interest. The guests stressed the importance of the ROCB Europe in strengthening cooperation between customs administrations and regional structure of WCO Europe region, assisting them in creating and developing projects in order to improve the implementation of customs activities in the region. The Director of ROCB Europe praised efforts of RTC in Bishkek in developing bilateral relations and wished them success in their future endeavors.

Development of Bilateral Cooperation between ROCB Europe and the State Customs Service of Ukraine

During the meeting, recent developments regarding customs capacity building provided by the ROCB Europe as well as prospects for further future bilateral collaboration were evaluated. Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Service of Ukraine Mr. Ruslan Cherkasskyi expressed appreciation the high-level existing cooperation between Ukraine Customs and ROCB Europe on capacity building. Both sides spoke about the importance of intensifying relations in order to maintain high dynamics in the development of bilateral relations. Expressing satisfaction with the expansion Mr. Eser Çengel noted that the ROCB Europe, as a customs capacity building center in the WCO Europe Region, supports planning and coordinates activities, identifies issues of common interest among members and organizes seminars and trainings for this purpose.



A Virtual Meeting on Strategic Analysis and Planning Held with RTC Khmelnytskyi



A virtual meeting was held between the Regional Office for Capacity Building for the World Customs Organization Europe Region (ROCB Europe) and Ukrainian customs officials on strategic analysis and planning for RTC and RDTC in Khmelnytskyi.

It was noted that strategic plan or planning plays an important role in ensuring that regional structures provide more effective services, policy development and implementation of defined policies, as well as monitoring and evaluation. The documents "Strategic Plan of the WCO RTC for 2022-2025 years" and

"Strategic Plan of the WCO RCTC for 2022-2025 years", which define future goals and objectives and paves the way for more efficient use of available resources and reflects the implementation of certain activities to achieve the goal.

It was stressed that the Strategic Plans envisage areas that should be given special attention to ensure the sustainability of WCO Regional Training Center and the WCO Regional Dog Training Center in Ukraine and a balanced approach for directing more effort and resources into these areas.

During the discussion of strategic plans, it was emphasized that the SWOT analysis (strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats) of the internal factors (resource potential) and external factors (environment), as well as monitoring and control are very important elements in terms of reviewing the strategic plan and other technical issues.



Regional Office for Capacity Building for the
World Customs Organization Europe Region

CORONAVIRUS BULLETIN

20th Anniversary of the Lt. Gen. Mihály Arnold Regional Training Center of the World Customs Organization in Budapest

The National Tax and Customs Administration of Hungary hosted a ceremony on 6th December 2021 on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Lt. Gen. Mihály Arnold Regional Training Center of the World Customs Organization in Budapest. Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, WCO Secretary General participated through a video message and highlighted the significant role of the RTC in the WCO's capacity building activities. Since its establishment, RTC Budapest has hosted a number of regional seminars and trainings in Budapest for example in the field of intellectual property rights, coordinated border management, Authorized Economic Operators, trade facilitation, trade control, smart customs seals or e-commerce. Moreover, in cooperation with the National University of Public Service and with the involvement of the WCO Secretariat 7 successful international academic conferences were held to discuss different aspects of tax and customs cooperation. These trainings, conferences and other bilateral and multilateral events hosted by the RTC have facilitated customs professionalism as well as mutual cooperation and partnership among customs administrations of the Europe Region.



Practical Training for the National Customs Laboratory of Bosnia and Herzegovina

In close cooperation between the WCO Secretariat and the Regional Office for Capacity Building for the World Customs Organization Europe Region (ROCB Europe), practical training for the National Customs Laboratory of Bosnia and Herzegovina was held from August 31 to September 3 in Banja Luka, HQ Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) Bosnia and Herzegovina. One expert from RCL Europe and two experts from the Customs Administration of Croatia led the training. Participants were introduced to general information on SAMANCTA (Sampling Guide for Customs and Tax Authorities), published by the EU and take real samples from a company that produces motor oils and fuel additives.



Training on Imports of Non-food Products of Animal Origin Received by Georgia Customs



Employees of the Sanitary, Phytosanitary, and Veterinary Control Division of the Customs Department of the Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance participated in a training held in Batumi, which was supported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Within the framework of the project "Safe and Quality Investment in Livestock" (SQIL)", the representatives of the Customs

the involvement of the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture, the experts from Food Safety, discussed non-food products of animal origin and import-related legislation.

Knowledge Improvement: ROCB Europe E-Training Module

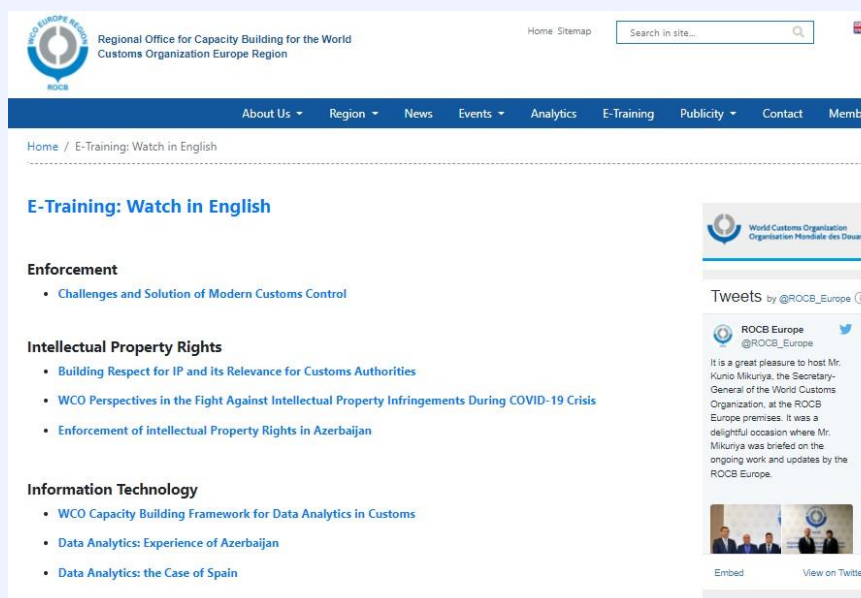


As Covid-19 pandemic brought hardships with respect to in-place and practical trainings on customs knowledge, virtual tools have become even more important. In that sense, ROCB Europe established an e-Training Section on the its web site. This newly added section which could be visited at <https://rocb-europe.org/e-training>

includes WCO materials in a variety of topics both in English and Russian languages as well as visual trainings by the ROCB Europe.

NOTE:

In order to have an access to e-Training, Customs officials must first register via the link (<https://rocb-europe.org/login>).



This newsletter is a product of the ROCB Europe. It is intended for the Member Administrations of the World Customs Organization Europe Region as well as the related audience.

The newsletter is also available on the ROCB Europe web site. For additional information and recent updates, please visit rocb-europe.org.

All news and articles in this edition could also be found on the ROCB Europe web site with respective source and footnote information which are publicly available. The ROCB Europe retains copyrights where applicable. Redistribution or reproduction of all or part of this newsletter in any form for commercial purposes is prohibited.

Address

Natig Aliyev str, 4-a AZ1025, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

Phone numbers

(+994 12) 464-31-34; (+994 12) 464-31-35

Fax

(+994 12) 464-31-36

Web Site

rocb-europe.org

E-mail

info@rocb-europe.org