



NEWSLETTER

## Regional Office for Capacity Building for the World Customs Organization

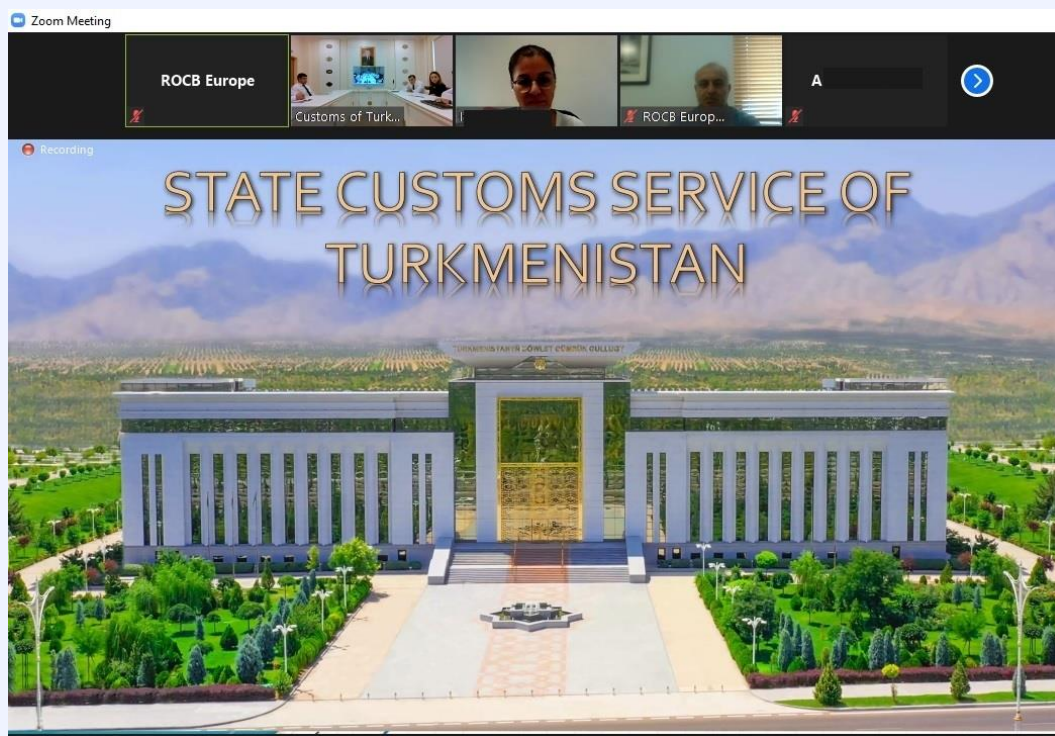
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## Integrity Development Workshop Brings Additional Benefits for Turkmenistan Customs

In close cooperation between the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Regional Office for Capacity Building for the World Customs Organization Europe Region (ROCB Europe), an integrity development workshop was carried out from 7-9 July 2021 for the State Customs Committee of Turkmenistan. Supported by integrity experts from Mauritius and Turkey Customs, approximately 30 Customs officers attended the virtual event.



The objective of the mission was to support the Turkmenistan Customs in further improvement of integrity development strategies in Customs, meeting international commitments in the area of fighting corruption and raising awareness of the WCO tools and instruments on Customs integrity. In addition, the workshop participants were updated with the latest anti-corruption trends, good integrity practices and received training on the following topics: corruption risk mapping and analysis/Enhancing Co-operation and Information exchange between Customs and State Anti-Corruption Authorities, Relationship with the Private sector, Managing conflicts of interest as a key anti-corruption element, PPT on Transparency and other good practices.

## The XII International Scientific and Practical Conference "30 years of the Customs Service of Independent Belarus"

An international scientific and practical conference, a meeting of the Board of the Union State and a presentation of postal projects dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the formation of the customs service were held today in Minsk.

Today, on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the formation of the customs service, the XII International Scientific and Practical Conference "30 years of the Customs Service of Independent Belarus: from the experience of the past to the synergy of the future" was held in Minsk, organized by the State Customs Committee.

The conference was attended by representatives of the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Court of the Eurasian Economic Union, ministries and departments of Belarus, scientific circles and business entities engaged in foreign economic activity.



The issues of improving customs regulation in the EEU, the main aspects of implementing the norms of the new version of the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Customs Regulation in the Republic of Belarus", the functioning of the electronic declaration center, digital customs technologies and services were discussed. Special attention was paid to the peculiarities of post-customs control in modern conditions, the technologies used in the field of confirming the origin of goods and the prospects for interaction between transport and customs control authorities.

## Workshop on Customs Valuation for Turkmenistan Successfully Delivered

The World Customs Organization in close cooperation with the Regional Office for Capacity Building for the World Customs Organization Europe Region (ROCB Europe) organized a virtual National Workshop on Customs Valuation for Customs Officials of Turkmenistan.

The workshop was held online from 26 to 30 July 2021 and was facilitated by a member of the WCO Secretariat and a pre-accredited expert trainer from Latvia. At the opening ceremony, the importance of Customs valuation in revenue collection was highlighted and the participants were encouraged to enrich their knowledge during the event.

Twenty Customs officers from various operational structures of headquarters and regional Customs offices participated in the workshop which covered a range of topics including the background to the Agreement, the transaction value and other valuation methods, an overview of the WCO's Revenue Package programme, relationship between Customs valuation and Transfer pricing and selected instruments of the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation as well as Advance Rulings for Customs valuation. The workshop also involved the examination, with the participants, of local case studies.



During the five-day virtual workshop, the participants were briefed on the WTO Valuation Agreement, transaction value, alternative methods of valuation and explored several aspects of Customs valuation including valuation controls and advance rulings. They were also introduced to the tools and instruments developed under the

Revenue Package. The participants also had the opportunity to examine practical cases and to discuss specific valuation issues encountered in their daily practice.



## Successful Operations by Azerbaijan Customs that Prevent an Attempt to Smuggle more than 660.4 Kilograms of Drugs

Azerbaijan Customs continues its operations in order to prevent illicit trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances going through the territory of the country. Successful operations by Azerbaijani Customs Officers that prevent an attempt to smuggle more than 660.4 kilograms of heroin.

As a result of measures taken by the customs authorities more than 527 kilograms of heroin, 133.4 kilograms of opium were seized in 3 facts.

- 527 kilograms of heroin - based on the information received, a vehicle transiting through the territory of Azerbaijan, was detained at the customs border.

- 133.4 kilograms of opium - a vehicle traveling through the territory of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was inspected by a service dog. As a result of the service dog's reaction, 68 kilograms 390 grams of opium were found in 26 bags with a total weight of 19,230 kilograms of black sponge (pumice) stone and 65 kilograms and 020 grams of opium were found in 26 bags with a total weight of 19,970.

With conducting security risk analysis and increasing the effectiveness of security measures, the Republic of Azerbaijan is constantly strengthening the fight against drug trafficking in the region.



## UNCTAD: How Countries are Faring on Global Goals amid COVID-19

The 2021 update of the UNCTAD SDG Pulse illustrates in numbers countries' progress and challenges in achieving the sustainable development goals by 2030. It presents analysis for a range of the sustainable development goals' (SDGs) indicators and others relevant to trade, investment, financing for development, debt, transport and technology. "With only eight years to go under the 2030 Agenda, and the COVID-19 pandemic putting the global system to the test, fact-based guidance is crucial for effective policy," UNCTAD Acting Secretary-General Isabelle Durant said. "It offers a great tool for anyone interested in monitoring sustainable development. We provide latest statistics and analyses, key messages and interactive charts with easily downloadable data," UNCTAD's chief statistician, Steve MacFeely, said.

### **Vulnerable countries hit hard by COVID-19**

The pandemic hit hard structurally weak and vulnerable economies such as least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), reversing hard-won socioeconomic gains.

### **COVID-19 shock had many economic consequences**

The resulting economic shock had many consequences. External debt, for one, grew to a record high in 2020 – reaching 31% of GDP in developing economies, according to the SDG Pulse.

### **E-commerce boomed in 2020**

According to UNCTAD, e-commerce sales were worth \$26.7 trillion in 2019, about 30% of global GDP. This includes both business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) sales.

### **Supporting sustainable development and prosperity for all**

The report also shares progress on the SDG indicators for which UNCTAD is a custodian. Jointly with partners and member states, the organization has developed agreed concepts and methodologies for all its custodian indicators, including for SDG indicator 16.4.1 on illicit financial flows. In 2021, 12 African and six Asian countries are pilot-testing methods for this indicator.

## The WCO Regional Customs Laboratory for Europe Providing Hands-on Practical Training for the National Customs Laboratory of Bosnia and Herzegovina

A WCO National Customs Laboratory support mission, facilitated by the WCO Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) for Europe, was held in Banja Luka, HQ Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA) Bosnia and Herzegovina, from August 31 to September 3 organized by the ROCB Europe.

One expert from RCL Europe and two experts from the Customs Administration of Croatia led the training that was divided in two parts: theoretical and practical. During the practical part all participants had a chance to practice with the sampling equipment.

The theoretical part was led by the project leader of the SAMANCTA Sampling Project Group. Participants were introduced to general information on SAMANCTA (Sampling Guide for Customs and Tax Authorities), published by the EU.

The practical part allowed participants to take real samples from a company that produces motor oils and fuel additives. This part of the training was demonstrated by the sampling experts from the Customs Administration of the Republic of Croatia.

At the end of the training, the Head of the Customs Laboratory Department of the ITA BiH thanked the WCO for their contribution to the modernization of the Customs Laboratory in terms of the presented WCO tools. He emphasized the importance of the customs laboratory and the practical relevance to taking representative samples for the correct identification and classification of products, thereby preventing fraud and collecting the correct customs excise and taxes.

Even in the difficult circumstances and restrictions caused by the COVID-19 situation, the WCO, through the ROCB, together with ITA Bosnia and Herzegovina made this mission a success, providing capacity building and training for the work of the Customs Laboratory of the ITA BiH, especially for customs officers on front line.

## Kazakhstan Announces Approval of Accounting System for Individual Goods during their Movement

Draft order of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On amendments to the order of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 9, 2015 No. 640" on approval of the instruction on the organization of a system for accounting for individual goods during their movement within the framework of mutual cross-border trade of the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union" was developed in order to bring it into line with paragraph 5 of Article 25 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Legal Acts".

With the Decision of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council "On some issues of import and circulation of goods in the customs territory of the Eurasian Economic Union in connection with the accession of the Republic Kazakhstan to the World Trade Organization "dated August 12, 2016 No. 5, also in order to support domestic manufacturers exporting goods to the EAEU countries.

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.

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