



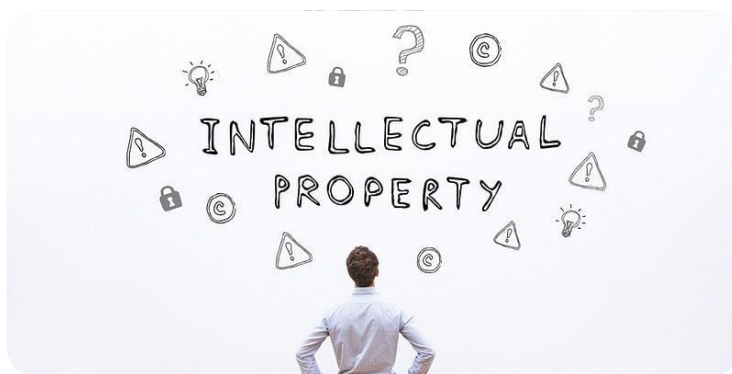
International Workshop on Promoting the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

On 30 June – 1 July 2020 the online specialized workshop “Training for instructors to ensure control over goods subject to IPR protection” with the participation of the EU4PFM experts was organized and conducted for the customs officials of the State Customs Service of Ukraine.

The main focus of the online event was on issues related to the alignment of national legislation on promoting the protection of intellectual property rights with the international standard (TRIPS Agreement), specifically:

- international aspects of legislation in the field of protection of intellectual property rights;
- EU computerized systems for receiving and processing applications, violations, using electronic data processing methods;
- cooperation with law enforcement agencies and other authorities;
- risk management for customs control of goods containing intellectual property rights,
- features of customs control of goods in transit, containing intellectual property rights.

The event was attended by 16 customs officials of the State Customs Service of Ukraine.



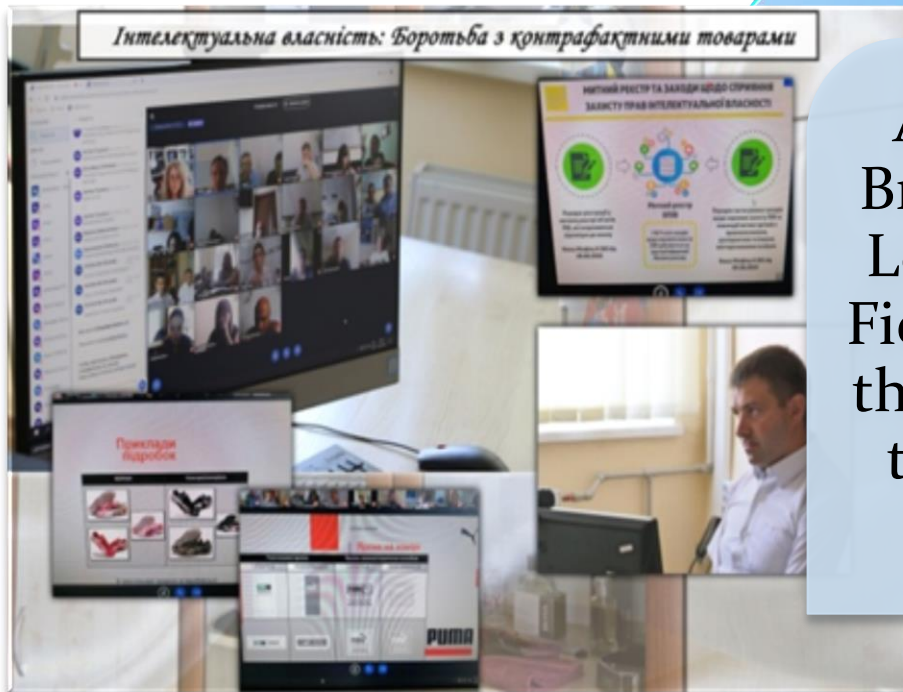
Comparative Analysis of the Customs Legislation of Ukraine with the Relevant Provisions of the EU Customs Legislation on Exemption from Customs Duties

EU4PFM

From 04 August to 14 August 2020, officials of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine participated in a remote workshop “Comparative analysis of customs legislation of Ukraine with the relevant provisions of EU customs legislation on exemption from customs duties”, conducted under the Public Finance Management Program for Ukraine (EU4PFM), implemented by the project team managed by the Lithuanian company CPMA.

During the workshop a number of issues were discussed, in particular the procedure for customs control and customs clearance applicable to goods exempt from customs duties in accordance with applicable law, and the grounds for granting such exemption. The information on cases and procedures for granting exemptions from customs duties in accordance with Lithuanian legislation was processed, including the temporary import, processing regime in foreign economic activity, re-export and re-import regimes.

It is also planned to analyze the current legislation of Ukraine, according to which exemption from customs duties is provided, and develop proposals to bring it into line with European legislation.

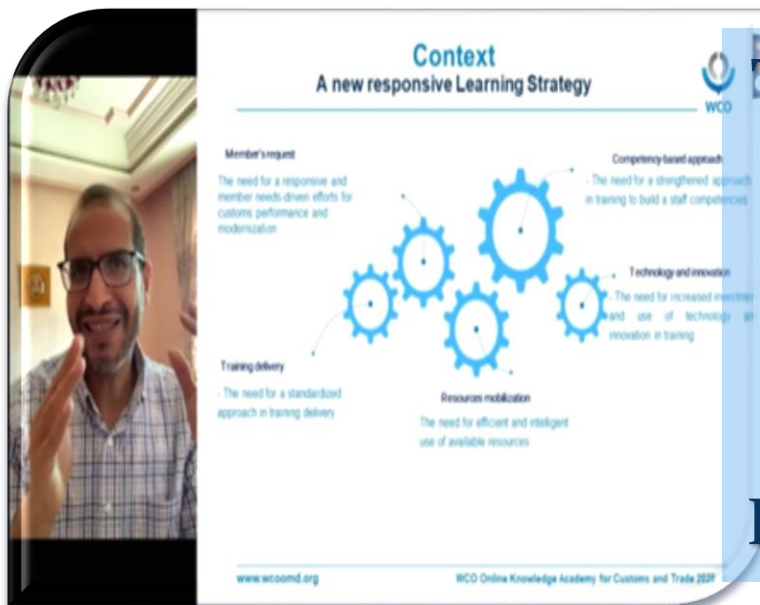


A Step Towards Bringing National Legislation in the Field of Promoting the IPR Protection to International Standards

On 26-27 August, 2020 a seminar “Intellectual Property: the Fight Against Counterfeit Goods” was held by the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine with the support of the patent law firm “Pakharenko and Partners” and with the representatives of the Reform Support Team Project Management Office at the Ministry of Finance as well as the Directorate of Trade Policy Measures of the State Customs Service of Ukraine continuing the practice of carrying out measures to combat the movement of counterfeit goods.

During the specialized training the peculiarities of work with the newly introduced Procedure for registration in the customs register of intellectual property rights protected by law, approved by the order of the Ministry of Finance, including the creation and implementing of a new software complex “Customs Register of Intellectual Property Rights” and software service for right holders were considered.

Materials from the right holders on the peculiarities of identification of some trademarks added to the customs register (APPLE, Lacoste, WENGER, JUUL, PUMA, SKECHERS, WD-40 and Reckitt Benckiser) were quite detailed. Particular attention was paid to the process of adaptation of national legislation to EU standards in the direction of protection of intellectual property rights. At the final stage of the workshop, the problematic issues of interaction between the customs authorities and the right holders in connection with the amendments to the current legislation were discussed.

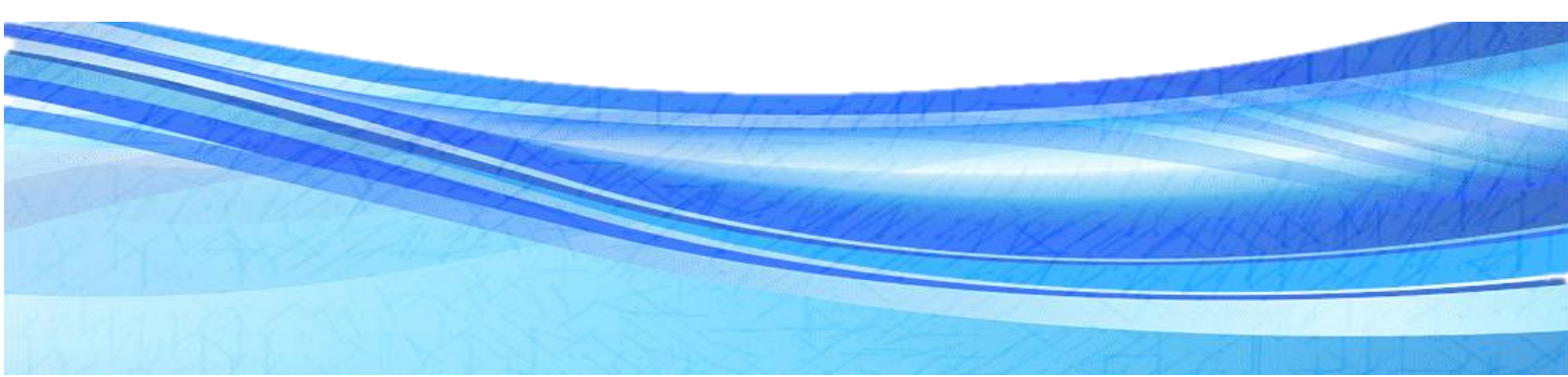


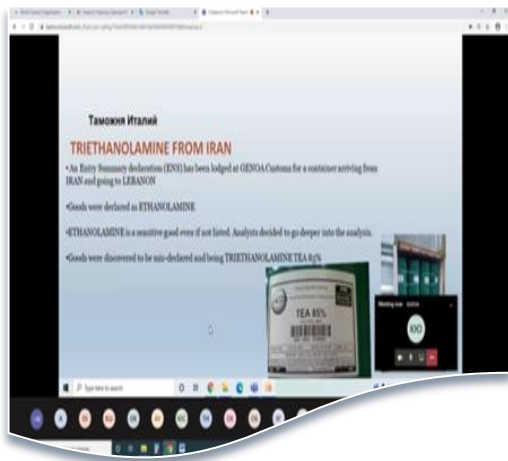
The WCO Knowledge Academy Raises Awareness of Customs Administrations Representatives and Business Community

From 8 to 10 September 2020, business professionals, customs officials and administrators, border officials, representatives of international organizations and scientific community had the opportunity to join intensive interactive discussions on the most relevant topics in the customs environment at a workshop organized by the WCO Knowledge Academy.

Online courses were conducted in English and French on the GoToWebinar platform. The program of the event included the following modules: Customs and tariff regulation (harmonized system, rules of origin and customs value), Compliance and simplification of procedures (the role of customs in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, security and safety issues, e-commerce, the role of customs in environmental protection), Institutional development (combined approach to learning), and research (WCO data model and waste trade research).

About 20 highly qualified experts, trainers and facilitators from various fields shared their experience and best practices during the event.





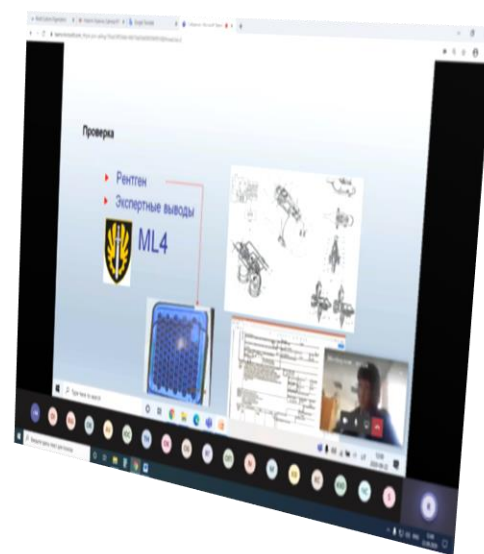
Control of Dual-Use Goods through the Prism of the Experience of the European Union

With the assistance of the Public Finance Management Support Program for Ukraine (EU4PFM), an online seminar on export control and transit of dual-use goods was held on September 21-22, 2020 for officials of the State Customs Service of Ukraine.

Almost 40 customs officers of Ukraine had the opportunity to get acquainted with the European experience in controlling the movement of dual-use goods, the peculiarities of their identification, organization and implementation of the procedure for detention of these goods, interagency and international cooperation.

A representative of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service presented an overview of Ukrainian legislation governing this area of customs, in terms of differences with European counterparts.

All participants admitted that the workshop was an effective tool for learning about the latest practices in the control of dual-use goods, discussing practical situations and receiving advice from experts and colleagues on ways of dealing with them.





Cooperation with the Customs Training Center of the Republic of Lithuania

On September 23, 2020 the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine and the Customs Training Centre of the Republic of Lithuania held an online working meeting.

During the meeting, the ways of conducting specialized training in both countries were discussed, including distance learning methods, and a preliminary agreement was reached on the involvement of experts from both countries in the training activities to be held in the partner country.

Parties continued the coordination of the procedure for conducting and developing the practical training course, aimed at working out the full cycle of customs officers' actions in carrying out customs control over goods and vehicles in real conditions at the customs border. Considering the need for a large number of participants to stay in one place, the joint implementation of this course will take place after the completion of all quarantine restrictions.

Particular attention was paid to the discussion of the legal regulation of cooperation between Ukraine and Lithuania in terms of customs officials training and exchange of training methods. We are all in difficult circumstances caused by COVID-19. However, the work of customs officers cannot be suspended, as well as the process of their professional development.

Representatives of both countries expressed hope for the development of further cooperation.

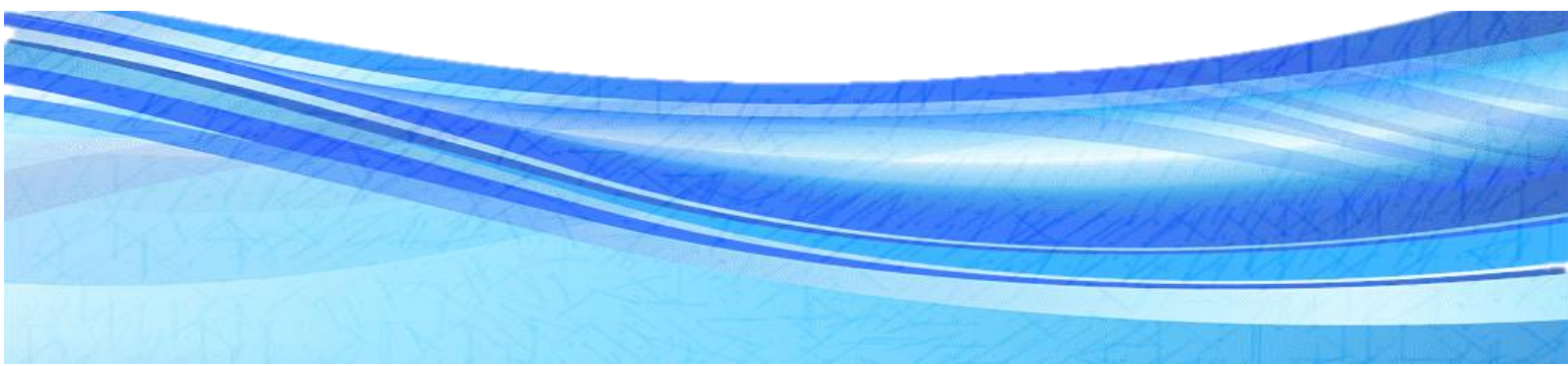
The Department Continues Cooperation with the OSCE



Andrii Voitseshchuk, the Acting Director of the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine, together with the canine and IT experts, held an online meeting with the coordinators of the OSCE Mission “Support to the State Customs Service of Ukraine in combating illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives”.

The main goal of the project is to assist the State Customs Service of Ukraine in strengthening its capabilities in preventing and combating illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives on the territory of Ukraine and when crossing its state borders.

During the working meeting in order to implement the main activities identified under the project, issues of further cooperation were discussed.





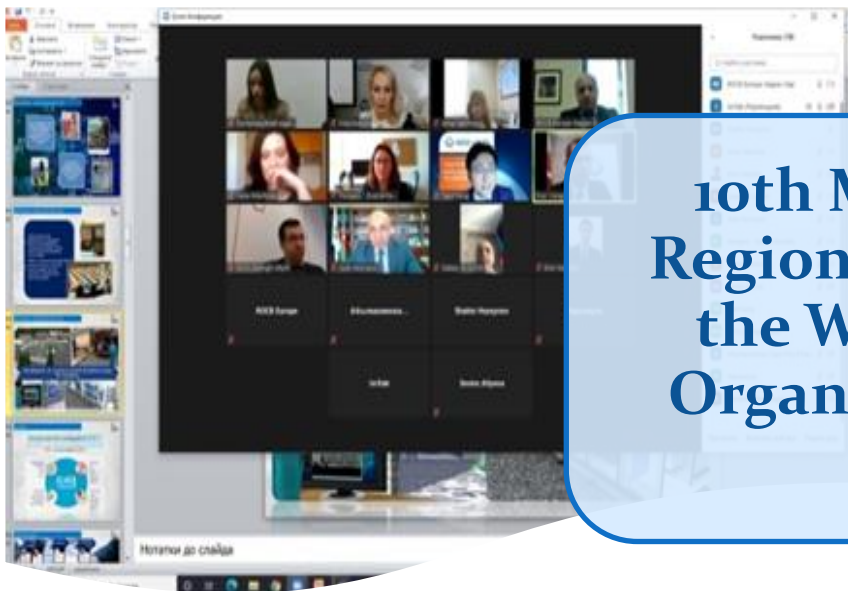
Effective Investigation of Wildlife Crimes in Europe

On November 3, experts from the Department for Specialized Training and Canine Services of the State Customs Service of Ukraine, together with 133 representatives from around the world - judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, customs officials and WWF discussed online an important topic of prevention and effective investigation of wildlife crimes in terms of the project “Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe (SWiPE)” for strengthening cooperation of judicial, law enforcement agencies, as well as prosecutors at the national and international levels.

Strategic partners of the project are ENPE (European Network of Environmental Prosecutors), UNEP (UN Environment Program), OCLAESP (French Gendarmerie), EUFJE (EU Forum of Environmental Judges).

A number of issues were considered, such as approaches to solving the problems of investigating wildlife crimes in Europe; cooperation in this field - previous experience, next steps; identification, study of factors and drivers that will contribute to the successful implementation of the SWiPE project, which aims, in particular, to restore European biodiversity that is under threat.





10th Meeting of the Regional Structures of the World Customs Organization Europe Region

On December 2, 2020 the representatives of the WCO Regional Training Centre (Khmelnyskyi, Ukraine) took part in the 10th Virtual Meeting of the Regional Structures of the World Customs Organization Europe Region under the theme of “Annual Progress and Vision for 2021” using the Zoom-video conferencing system.

The meeting was aimed to review recent developments and activities focused on the ROCB and RTCs in the WCO Europe Region, redefining the roles of the RTCs – ROCB – Vice-Chair – the Secretariat, and evaluating the communication and cooperation among stakeholders.

The annual RTCs reports on the work undertaken were considered within the agenda. Participants shared experiences, thoughts and suggestions on how to move forward on the path to further development.

Public Finance Management Support Programme for Ukraine (EU4PFM)

The European Union project EU4PFM is the Public Financial Management Support Program in Ukraine. In terms of the programme a number of activities were implemented from July to December 2020 on:

- Customs Audit;
- Risk Management;
- NCTS implementation;
- Customs Legislation Analysis.

In addition, the Department, together with the EU4PFM experts, trained trainers on issues of ensuring control by the customs authorities of Ukraine for endangered species of animals and plants (CITES Convention).