



Workshop on harmonizing customs procedures and C2C electronic exchange of documents

Casablanca, 2-4 December 2015



Expected Results

Member States informed of the results of the analysis of obstacles hampering customs harmonization in North Africa and Agadir Agreement MS

Technical and legal gaps facing electronic exchange of customs documents between the Maghreb customs services and between the members of the Agadir declaration identified

Lessons learned from international and regional experiences and practices in customs harmonization

Discuss the opportunities for Agadir countries to connect to C2C data exchange platform

Laying the foundations of a pilot project for the electronic exchange of customs documents either between UMA members or Agadir Countries



3 days of intense discussions sessions

9 discussions sessions for fruitful interactions on:

Regional integration

Trade facilitation and customs procedures in arab region

Dematerialisation

TIR and other Regional Conventions and agreements

Computerization of custom procedures

WCO data model

Share experience from ASEAN, EU, Senegal, ATU, Tunisia, Mauritania, Morocco, Jordan, Egypt as well as from the eTIR pilot project between Iran (Islamic republic of) and Turkey

Studied options available for a pilot C2C electronic exchange in the region



Achievements

We learn on number of the issues ...from presentations and discussions
and we agreed on:

1. The importance of harmonization of customs documents and trade facilitation in the evolving North Africa context
2. Trade facilitation and accelerating transborder transport became important part of the mission of custom administrations within arab region for more cooperation and integration
3. The need to facilitate the usage and penetration of new technologies related to customs work in the region. This would enhance the exchange of data electronically
4. The need to accelerate the simplification and the uniformisation of customs process within NA and Agadir Region



Achievements

5. The importance to develop a road map on C2C in the context of regional integration agreements implemented, under negotiations or planned
6. The need to focus on achieving the goals of the current agreements rather than conducting new one.
7. The importance of existing international instruments, such as the TIR Convention, which have already demonstrated their effectiveness in the process of integration in other regions, to facilitate trade and transport in the countries in the region and with their trade partners, such as the European Union
8. The role of international standards and experiences, such as those developed by UNECE and the WCO, in facilitating the submission of data from the private sector to Customs administrations and other cross border agencies as well as the exchange of data among customs administrations



Achievements

9. There is also need to improve road and communication infrastructure between member states by finalizing the remaining road segments

10. There is also need to improve the negotiation skills of member states negociators in view to facilitate negotiation for future improvments of existing agreement

11. Coordination between regional communities and organizations regarding adopting a common regional integration plan to neglect interference of policies and strategies on the regional level is essential

12. Bosting competitiveness also entails investing in the infrastructure, deepening and linking capital markets and uprooting corruption



Achievements

13. Increasing public awareness of the current agreements and the potential opportunities to be gained from it, especially to business professionals in each member country



Recommendations

1. Assist member countries in developing technical capacities in improving the electronic treatment of trade documents and their exchange in the context of regional integration agreements
2. Implement a pilot project for electronic exchange of customs documents between customs administration based on the principle of the data centralization under a star format
This format could be the one which offers the most advantages in terms of flexibility for further extension



Recommendations

3. Invite member states to sign and ratify different cooperation agreements in the field of Trade facilitation and the corresponding international conventions, such as the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention), 1975 and the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982
4. Invite member states to implement WCO data model which is an important step toward Customs harmonization and electronic exchange



Thank you