



MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE
Revised Kyoto
Convention

PO0075E1a

-
13th Meeting

-
6 - 7 November 2014

Brussels, 7 November 2014.

**REPORT ON THE 13TH MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON
THE REVISED KYOTO CONVENTION**

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. Ms. Heike Barczyk, WCO Deputy Director of Compliance and Facilitation, opened the Meeting by welcoming delegates to the 13th Meeting of the Management Committee on the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC). She expressed her great satisfaction at the increase in the number of Contracting Parties, having risen from 91 to 96 following the accessions of Cambodia, Togo, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Bhutan. She added that the increased number of Contracting Parties to the RKC was a positive signal from WCO Members to trade facilitation, which was also a key topic at a high political level given the current developments regarding the Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) at the World Trade Organization (WTO).
2. The Deputy Director said that as the provisions of the WTO TFA were in line with and maybe even based on the RKC, implementation of the Convention also supported future effective implementation of the WTO TFA. She also pointed out that the Convention still remained the blueprint for modern and efficient Customs procedures in the 21st Century.
3. With regard to some of the Agenda items, the Deputy Director hoped for fruitful discussions on the role of the Committee and the Secretariat in drafting the Agenda of Management Committee on the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC/MC) meetings, and thanked the RKC Correspondence Drafting Group for its extensive work done so far in drafting a potential questionnaire that might help future discussions on potential amendments to the RKC. Another item she referred to was the presentation on a new RKC e-learning module that had been developed as part of one of the WCO's long-term capacity building projects.
4. She concluded by encouraging active participation from the floor during the next one and a half days of the meeting.

II. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

5. The Deputy Director informed delegates that in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 7, the Management Committee was required to elect a Chairperson annually. She then opened the floor to Members for the nomination of candidates.
6. South Africa nominated Mr. Yukitomo Usutani (Japan). This proposal was supported by China, Serbia and India. Mr. Yukitomo Usutani was elected unanimously.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Doc. PO0070

7. Mr. Yukitomo USUTANI thanked the Management Committee for the possibility given to him to chair this Committee.
8. The Chairperson presented the draft Agenda as reproduced in Doc. PO0070. He reminded delegates that the draft Agenda had been circulated to Contracting Parties and Observers six weeks before the meeting, as established in Article 6, paragraph 7 of the RKC.
9. In relation to how the draft Agenda was developed, he highlighted that it had been difficult for the Secretariat to draft the Agenda for this meeting because only two Agenda item proposals had been sent by Contracting Parties. He indicated that this topic would be further discussed under item IV on the role of the RKC/MC and the Secretariat in the drafting of the Agenda.
10. The Chairperson also reminded delegates that during the 12th Session of the RKC/MC, a Correspondence Drafting Group had been created with the objective of developing a questionnaire aimed at gathering information on the possible need to amend the RKC. The outcome of the work done by the Group was reflected in Doc. PO0072, along with its Annexes including the draft questionnaire.
11. The Chairperson continued that Doc. PO0073 was related to the implementation of the RKC provisions in the context of a Unified Customs Union, while Doc. PO0074 contained a request by the Dominican Republic for an extension of the period for implementation of some RKC Standards.
12. He continued to highlight further Agenda items by indicating that some Contracting Parties would give presentations on their accession procedures and on national practices in the implementation of the RKC. The Secretariat would update the Committee on developments related to the WTO TFA as well as giving a short report on the activities of the WCO TFA Working Group, the MERCATOR Programme and the Economic Competitiveness Package (ECP).
13. The Chairperson then indicated that, according to Article 6, paragraph 10, the Committee would adopt a report before the close of its session and that this would be transmitted to the Permanent Technical Committee and the Council for information as well as to Contracting Parties and Observers. He finally gave the floor to delegates for their comments before adoption of the Agenda.
14. The Delegate of the Federal Customs Administration of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) indicated that its request that was mentioned as Agenda item VI ("Implementation of RKC provisions in the context of Unified Customs Union") had

been sent to the Secretariat to obtain related information. It had not been the intention to bring it forward to the Management Committee, so he would have no further information to share during the meeting. He therefore requested that this item be removed from the draft Agenda.

15. The Management Committee adopted the Agenda as set out in Doc. PO0070, after deletion of item VI.

IV. THE ROLE OF THE RKC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CONTRACTING PARTIES) AND THE SECRETARIAT IN THE DRAFTING OF THE AGENDA OF THE MEETINGS

Doc. PO0071

Background

16. The Chairperson reminded the Management Committee that, according to Article 6, paragraph 6 of the Convention, *“The competent administrations of the Contracting Parties shall communicate to the Secretary General of the Council any requests for the inclusion of items on the Agenda of the sessions of the Management Committee. The Secretary General of the Council shall bring proposals to the attention of the competent administrations of the Contracting Parties and of the observers referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this Article.”* He also reminded the RKC/MC that the Secretariat had sent a letter to Contracting Parties on 2 July 2014 accordingly.
17. He indicated that for this meeting, the Secretariat had finally received only one proposal for an Agenda item from one Contracting Party. He indicated that the WCO Secretariat had therefore drafted the present document for discussion during this session of the RKC/MC in order to examine jointly with Contracting Parties the reasons for such a lack of contributions. The Chairperson then gave the floor to the Secretariat for further explanations.
18. The Secretariat introduced in detail Article 6, paragraph 6 and Article 19 of the Convention in order to emphasize the role of the Management Committee as the key driver of its meetings, the WCO Secretariat being the depository of the Convention. The Secretariat mentioned that in order to prepare the MC Agenda, the Secretariat had sent a letter on 2 July 2014 to all Contracting Parties.
19. He emphasized the important role of the Committee as the only body competent to provide the official interpretation of Standards included in the Convention. That is why the Secretariat preferred to advise Contracting Parties to send their requests to the Committee, even if the Secretariat gave and would still continue to give unofficial views and comments on the RKC provisions.
20. The Secretariat gave some figures concerning the Agendas of the RKC/MC meetings, according to which the Secretariat had received only nine proposals for Agenda items from Members since the first meeting of the Management Committee held in March 2006. Only five meetings out of 12 (before this meeting) had included in their respective Agendas proposals from Contracting Parties.
21. The Secretariat concluded by recommending that Contracting Parties become more active in this process in order to ensure they shaped interesting Agendas.
22. After this introduction to Doc. PO0071, the Chairperson gave the floor to delegates for their comments and input.

Summary of discussion

23. The Delegate of the People's Republic of China thanked the Secretariat for placing the examination of Doc. P00071 as the first item of the meeting. He recognized that there were a few topics for discussion on the Agenda while there were also a number of topics that could be discussed during future meetings. Examples that he mentioned included the WTO TFA and its relation to the ECP and the RKC; RKC implementation challenges; the situation concerning accession to Specific Annexes; and views from the private sector. He also encouraged the Secretariat to try to push Contracting Parties further at an individual level to come up with Agenda item proposals.
24. The Delegate of the Federal Customs Administration of the UAE supported the ideas of China. He equally shared his thoughts that the role of the RKC/MC should again be clarified to Members to help them understand which topics to bring forward for discussion.
25. The Delegate of the Russian Federation informed the Committee that Russia was continuing to drive its modernization processes and had started its national process regarding implementation of all the Specific Annexes. In order for it to move forward, standardization, like that provided for in the RKC, was key to its modernization efforts.
26. The Delegate of the European Union (EU) suggested that a topic for discussion could be the question of what barriers existed for non-Contracting Parties to accede to the RKC. He hinted that maybe the discussions under the next Agenda item would provide further guidance in that respect.
27. The Delegate of Togo supported the comments of previous speakers while suggesting also sharing still more implementation reports by Members. He felt that no questions or challenges were reported to the RKC/MC partly because RKC implementation might not be moving forward at national level.
28. The Secretariat took note of all the proposals by the RKC/MC. Commenting on the interventions from the floor, the Secretariat once more emphasized that the attractiveness of the Agenda was mainly within the responsibility of the RKC/MC and not, at least not only, of the Secretariat. It suggested as one means, and provided Members agreed to their questions being put forward on a case-by-case basis, to provide the RKC/MC with a list of those questions for RKC-related advice it received intersessionally, for further discussion by the RKC/MC.

Conclusion

29. In conclusion of this Agenda item, the Management Committee took note of the presentation by the Secretariat followed by comments and proposals from delegates. The RKC/MC recommended that Contracting Parties actively participate in drafting the Agenda.

V. REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDENCE DRAFTING GROUP ON THE POSSIBLE REVISION OF THE REVISED KYOTO CONVENTION

Doc. PO0072

Background

30. The Chairperson reminded the Management Committee that at its 12th Session, held last year, the Committee had created a Correspondence Drafting Group to draft a questionnaire aimed at gathering information from Contracting and non-Contracting Parties on the possible need to amend the Convention.
31. He indicated that the Correspondence Drafting Group was chaired by Mr. Van Kuik (Netherlands), who unfortunately could not be here due to scheduling issues. The Drafting Group had held three meetings at WCO Headquarters and produced the questionnaire referred to together with a draft Concept Note, which were all part of Doc. PO0072. He then gave the floor to the Secretariat.
32. The Secretariat mentioned that the RKC/MC, on some occasions, had discussed the possibility of revising or updating the Convention in the light of recent developments in the Customs and trading environment. Furthermore, the Secretariat representative recalled that the RKC/MC had updated many sections of the RKC Guidelines in order to reflect changes in current practices and future trends, including the Guidelines related to IT, rules of origin, postal traffic and relief consignments.
33. He mentioned that the WCO Secretariat, meanwhile, supported by Members, had developed many additional tools and initiatives with a view to complementing the RKC in order to ensure that this Convention remained the blueprint for modern and efficient Customs procedures in the 21st Century. As an example, he pointed out the ECP which encompassed all other WCO instruments, tools and standards, while the RKC remained at the core, and also mentioned the Mercator Programme approved at the last sessions of the WCO Council.
34. The Delegate of the EU then gave a brief summary of the work done by the RKC Correspondence Drafting Group. He pointed out that the Group had taken the approach of drafting the questionnaire in a short and simple manner to avoid it being seen as too complex and complicated and thus not replied to.
35. The Delegate of the EU added that the Concept Note, among others, provided historical background, while the questionnaire envisaged exploring Members' situations and interests with regard to the possibility of reviewing or amending the Convention. He then emphasized that the RKC in its current format resulted from work that had been initiated in 1994. He invited comments and input to the work carried out by the Group.

Summary of discussion

36. The RKC/MC held intense discussions on the questionnaire and the Concept Note. Several delegates stressed the need for the questionnaire and any accompanying note to remain neutral and not to pre-empt any possible result of the questionnaire.
37. Several delegates proposed that the draft questionnaire should be restructured by making a distinction between Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties.

38. The RKC/MC then reviewed the draft questionnaire paragraph by paragraph. The result of this review is appended as an Annex to this Report.
39. The Chairman explained the next steps that would be followed before the questionnaire was sent out. He proposed that before sending out the questionnaire to Contracting and non-Contracting Parties, it should be sent to the December session of the WCO Policy Commission for information purposes, potentially under the Agenda item dedicated to trade facilitation issues. The RKC/MC agreed on such timing.
40. He also proposed that the Secretariat draft an accompanying letter for the questionnaire based on the information contained in the draft Concept Note that the Drafting Group had put forward. The RKC/MC agreed on this way forward with the fifth paragraph of the draft Concept Note not being taken into further consideration.

Conclusion

41. The Committee agreed that the questionnaire should be presented at the upcoming meeting of the Policy Commission in December 2014 to keep the Policy Commission informed. After consultation with the Policy Commission, the Secretariat had been tasked to draft the accompanying letter and send the questionnaire to both Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties.

VI. EXTENSION REQUEST FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARD 10.5 OF THE GENERAL ANNEX, CHAPTER 1, 3 AND 4 OF SPECIFIC ANNEX F

Doc. PO0074

Background

42. The Chairperson reminded the Management Committee that paragraph 4 (a) of Article 13 set out that, ***“where the periods provided for [the implementation of some provisions] would, in practice, be insufficient for any Contracting Party to implement the provisions of the General Annex, that Contracting Party may request the Management Committee, before the end of the period referred to in paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article, to provide an extension of that period.”***
43. In line with the above, he informed the Committee that the Dominican Republic (DR) had sent the Secretariat a letter requesting the RKC/MC to consider an extension period for the country to implement certain RKC Standards, and that this request was part of Doc. PO0074, developed by the WCO Secretariat in order to introduce the DR’s concerns. He therefore gave the floor to the Secretariat.

Summary of discussion

44. The Secretariat indicated that the DR had requested an extension of the period for implementation of some provisions included in the General Annex as well as in Chapters 1.3 and 4 of Specific Annex F.
45. The Secretariat presented the legal provisions of the RKC serving as the basis of the request by the DR, emphasizing that according to the above cited paragraph 4 (a) of Article 13, an extension of the period of implementation was only possible for the Standards included in the General Annex. Having said this, the Secretariat indicated that the Management Committee was therefore requested to react to the request of the

DR regarding Standard 10.5 of the General Annex and not the Standards of the Specific Annexes.

46. The Secretariat also mentioned that, in principle, decisions of the RKC/MC were to be taken by consensus. In the event of no consensus, the Management Committee would vote and decide on the basis of the majority of the Contracting Parties present at the meeting.
47. The Secretariat confirmed that this was the first time that the Management Committee had received such a request, which underlined the seriousness with which the DR approached implementation of the RKC.
48. On the basis of the foregoing, the Chairperson invited the Management Committee to examine the request by the DR and decide on whether the extension should or should not be granted.
49. The Delegate of the Customs Administration of the DR presented an explanation to the Committee, stating that some sensitive issues had been identified for the application of Standard 10.5, Chapter 10 of the General Annex with the harmonization of its national legislation. After having listened to the comments given by the Secretariat, the Delegate specifically provided explanations relating to Standard 10.5.
50. The Delegate indicated that the DR had been a Contracting Party to the RKC since 28 September 2012 and the period of implementation was due on 28 September 2015. It was indicated that just before its accession, several changes in national legislation had occurred. Currently, there was no appeal possibility to an independent body as recommended by the RKC. In order for the DR to implement Standard 10.5, a change in its national legislation was needed which would take time due to national procedures. She further referred to the submitted Extension Request, with detailed technical explanations in the Annex to Doc. PO0074.
51. The Delegates of the EU, Serbia and Nigeria, supported by the Russian Federation, stressed their support for this request. There was no objection from the floor.

Conclusion

52. The Chairperson of the Management Committee recognized the statement made by the Delegate of the DR and the Management Committee granted an extension of one year to the DR, based on the consensus of the Committee.

VII. PRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS

53. The Delegate of Papua New Guinea gave a presentation on his country's accession procedures and national practices for the implementation of the RKC. He pointed out the various phases that had led to accession to the RKC in January 2014, including the first comparison work that had been done between the national legislation and the RKC provisions. The comparison had indicated that the legislation was not fully compliant with the RKC, and had thus resulted in some further amendments to the national legislation.

54. The Delegate of Indonesia started his presentation by outlining some Customs reform initiatives which had been initiated in the 1990s with the introduction of electronic systems, particularly the national Single Window aiming at increasing trade facilitation and resulting in interconnectivity of different government agencies. He mentioned that the process of acceding to the RKC had started in the year 2000, but the country had only successfully acceded to the Convention in 2014 due to several national formal procedures, including consultation with other authorities and presidential approval. He highlighted that some of the benefits received after implementation of the RKC included the attraction of foreign investment and increased economic competitiveness.
55. The Delegate of Togo gave a presentation on his country's accession procedures and national practices for the implementation of the RKC. He indicated, amongst other things, that a meeting with the WCO Secretary General had played a crucial role in creating the political will needed for accession to the RKC. That meeting had also led to the organization of a joint workshop for Customs officers from Togo and Benin as well as participants from relevant Ministries involved in the process of accession and the private sector. After the workshop, Customs had been able to align the national Customs Code with the provisions of the RKC. Thereafter, the process of accession had started with the submission of the Customs Code to the Minister of Economy and Finance as the first step. After that, the instrument of accession drafted by the Minister of Economy and Finance had passed through the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Council of Ministers and the National Parliament, before being signed by the President as a final national step. The instrument of accession had been deposited with the Secretary General of the WCO during the Council sessions in June 2014. The presentation of Togo ended with a short video, showing some national cultural music as an expression of joy at having completed the accession process.
56. During the plenary discussions on the three presentations, several delegates thanked and showed appreciation to the presenters and asked whether the WCO had played any direct or supporting role during the accession process. The presenters responded that the WCO diagnostic and strategic planning support missions under the Columbus Programme had played a very important role for their respective countries' accession to the Convention. So had national and regional workshops that had been supported by the WCO. The presenters from Indonesia and Papua New Guinea indicated that the ROCB Asia/Pacific in their region had also added value to the process of accession to the Convention.
57. The Delegate of South Africa gave a presentation on how the RKC contributed to Customs reform and modernization in terms of its guiding principles including transparency and predictability, standardized and simplified processes, maximized use of IT, application of risk management and audit based controls. He explained that the implementation of the RKC had facilitated some modernization initiatives, including a programme on a One Stop Border Post with a neighbouring country (Mozambique), the implementation of trade educational programmes to strengthen compliance and the introduction of a Preferred Trader Scheme.
58. During the following plenary discussion, the Delegate of Togo asked what areas South African Customs had switched from "push" to "pull" systems, and how its Preferred Trader Scheme compared to AEO programmes. The Delegate of China expressed her appreciation for the achievements made by South African Customs and asked if and how its developments in the area of trade facilitation also contributed to securing the supply chain.

59. The Delegate of South Africa said that the new case management system (Service Manager) worked on a “get next” principle to ensure efficient processing of entries. This allowed officials from the processing hubs to pull cases from the pool for processing. A case left unattended for four hours would be released automatically. Relating to the question on the Preferred Trader Scheme, he explained that it was a step forward towards a future full AEO programme as recommended in the SAFE Framework of Standards. He then added that enhanced cooperation among Customs administrations in the region could further support securing the supply chain and effective information exchange was key to succeeding in this regard.

Conclusion

60. The RKC/MC noted the presentations given by Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Togo on their accession processes.
61. Furthermore, the RKC/MC took note of the presentation given by South Africa on implementation of the RKC.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON THE RKC E-LEARNING MODULE PROJECT

Background

62. The Chairperson explained to the MC that the WCO, as part of its capacity building initiatives for Members, had been developing a number of e-learning modules covering several WCO standards and instruments and, by way of example, a few more e-learning modules had been launched this month at a WCO event in South Africa, including one module designed specifically based on the RKC. The development of these modules had been made possible with the financial support of the World Bank.
63. The Chair continued that the new RKC module was hosted on the WCO CLiKC! platform and was thus available to all Members.

Summary of discussion

64. Mr. Nathan Taylor, Project Manager within a multi-year WCO Capacity Building Project for Sub-Saharan Africa funded by the World Bank, and Mr. Thibault Hermes, WCO Capacity Building Directorate Learning Team, presented the background to the new RKC e-learning module and then gave a live demonstration of the tool on the WCO CLiKC! platform.
65. The RKC e-learning aid was the result of two years of work on the development of a Training Manual in 2013 for Facilitators and Learners, covering the RKC General Annex and the RKC Specific Annexes, and the development of the e-learning course itself in 2014. The course was currently available on CLiKC! in English, French and Portuguese. Currently more than 13,000 Customs officers on CLiKC! had access to the tool and some further administrations could ensure its inclusion on their national e-learning platform, with the appropriate licence agreement with the WCO.

66. The e-learning course ran on many different operating systems and browsers. In total, the RKC e-learning course contained 20 modules, and key features included a Glossary of Customs Terms in the context of the RKC, characters, navigation options, exercises, case studies, learner feedback, diagrams and a final quiz. At any time when using the course, one could see the reference to the legal text of the relevant Standard one was working on. The course could be used in different ways - as part of self-training, but also in the context of blended learning approaches.
67. Based on the respective questions in the following plenary discussion, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Hermes explained that there was no need to apply for extra access to the CLiKC! to be able to use the RKC e-learning module. It was the appointed e-learning coordinator, at national level, who could inform the WCO about new colleagues needing CLiKC! access. Regarding options for translating the tool into further languages, they confirmed that the modules were designed in a way that facilitated such additions, provided that financial resources allowed such translations in the future. Regarding how management level staff of Customs administrations could make best use of the RKC e-learning module beyond allowing their staff to use it as training, they replied that the module was flexible so that managers could decide on different needs, e.g. when trying to raise awareness of higher levels of staff, the introduction to the module might support their efforts. Overall, for a first overview by managers, they recommended specifically using modules 1 and 6.

Conclusion

68. The Management Committee thanked the Secretariat for the development of the new RKC e-learning tool, appreciated the financial support by the World Bank and took note of the presentation by the Secretariat on the tool. It encouraged Members to actively use the CLiKC! opportunities in this respect.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

69. The Chairperson introduced this item before giving the floor to several representatives of the Secretariat for further details in this respect.

Promotional activities

70. The Secretariat presented the main activities undertaken with a view to promoting the RKC. Accordingly, the Secretariat pointed out that it took advantage of any opportunities offered by stakeholders to promote the RKC and highlighted the need to accede to and implement it. The Secretariat then made reference to the WCO website, which included an area set aside specifically for the RKC and which was updated regularly, so as to offer Members a useful package of information about the RKC and accession thereto.
71. The Secretariat said that at the risk of overlapping with other interventions, it was important to recognize that a significant component of the ECP focused on activities to promote the RKC, which was acknowledged as the cornerstone of this Package. The Secretariat briefly mentioned the development of an e-learning module which would be hosted on the CLiKC! platform, by means of World Bank financing. This issue had been covered in an earlier presentation.
72. In addition, the Secretariat was pursuing its many technical assistance activities as part of its regular programmes and at Members' request, both at national and regional level, aimed at speeding up the accession process. With respect to this

specific aspect, the Secretariat drew attention to its participation in and conducting of several seminars and workshops on the RKC. These included national seminars or workshops for the Customs Administrations of Tunisia, Brunei Darussalam, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar and Qatar.

73. The Secretariat had also taken part in two events in Morocco and Malawi during which key presentations had been given to demonstrate the importance of the RKC in the overall development of world trade and the activities related to the preparations for implementation of the WTO TFA.
74. Regional seminars had also been held in Praia (Cape Verde) for Portuguese-speaking Customs administrations (Community of Portuguese Language Countries - CPLP), in Budapest (Hungary) with Japanese financial support for countries of the WCO's Europe Region, in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) for the Customs Administrations of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and in Shanghai (People's Republic of China) and Baku (Azerbaijan) for Customs administrations of Member countries of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program, with financing by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
75. The Secretariat then recalled that promotional activities were aimed not only at supporting Members through their accession procedure, but also at implementing the RKC's provisions. Turning to this aspect in particular, the Secretariat reminded the Committee that in December 2012, the Policy Commission had asked the Secretariat to develop a Toolkit to enable Contracting Parties to carry out a quality implementation assessment of the RKC. Such a Toolkit had been developed by the Secretariat and approved by the Management Committee at its 12th Meeting, recommending that Contracting Parties use it to verify their level of implementation and especially to report to the Secretariat if necessary.
76. The Secretariat informed the Committee that to date, it had received no request for technical assistance from a Contracting Party or any report on an assessment made by a Member. It therefore hoped that some Contracting Parties would put themselves forward so that the Secretariat could assist them in an RKC quality implementation assessment process.
77. Finally, the WCO Secretariat said that several of these activities had been carried out by the Regional Office for Capacity Building (ROCB) for the WCO's Asia/Pacific Region, with technical support from accredited experts and financial support from numerous donors. The Secretariat consequently took this opportunity to thank the ROCB Asia/Pacific, the donors and the Customs Administrations of India, Mauritius, Japan, Niger and the Netherlands for having agreed to make their senior officers available to the Secretariat.
78. The Chairperson brought this item to a close by summarizing the contributions and indicating that the RKC/MC and the Secretariat had taken careful note of all the comments and proposals made by delegates with regard to RKC promotional activities.

Update on the current status of the WTO TFA and the Mercator Programme

79. The Deputy Director referred delegates to the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the WCO TFA Working Group on 29-30 September 2014. The full Report could be obtained here:
<http://www.wcoomd.org/~media/WCO/Public/Global/PDF/Topics/Facilitation/Activities%20and%20Programmes/TFAWG/Second%20TFAWG%20-%20Executive%20Summary%20-%20EN%20Final.ashx>

80. As part of the work of the TFA Working Group, the Secretariat presented the outcomes of the Analysis of Section I of the TFA (PTC Doc. PC0377 and TFA Working Group Doc. PT0013), which showed a high level of consistency between the TFA and RKC provisions. The Secretariat pointed to the areas where slight differences had been identified and also to the areas where the RKC Guidelines could be further developed to provide more guidance in preparations for TFA implementation (i.e. perishable goods, enquiry points in Customs Unions and Regional Economic Communities, periodic review of fees and charges, dealing with rejected goods etc). Lastly the Secretariat informed delegates that the Analysis would soon be uploaded on the WCO Members' website.
81. The Deputy Director finally mentioned discussions both at the TFA Working Group and the PTC on the WCO Mercator Programme as a strategic initiative to support trade facilitation.

Update on the ECP

82. The Secretariat reported the progress of the ECP that comprised existing WCO instruments and tools regarding the enhancement of economic competitiveness of WCO Members. It recalled that the RKC was recognized as the core of the ECP.
83. It explained that, based on the ECP Action Plan, more than 20 national or regional seminars on the RKC had been organized and an e-learning module had been developed. The development of new ECP tools, such as the Coordinated Border Management (CBM) Compendium, Transit Handbook, Customs-Business Partnership Guidance and Model Business Lens Checklist for SMEs, was introduced.
84. The Secretariat also mentioned that the revised ECP Action Plan, applicable from January 2015 to December 2016, would be sent to the next Policy Commission to be held in December 2014. It was highlighted that the revised Action Plan would not limit the activities of the RKC/MC.
85. The Chairperson gave the floor to delegates for questions and comments.
86. The Delegate of the Customs Administration of Saudi Arabia asked what Contracting Parties might lose if they did not join the WTO TFA.
87. The Deputy Director clarified the responsibility of the WTO for the TFA and explained that the WCO was not involved in the negotiation process. Regarding contributions to potential national TFA implementation in the future, she added that the analysis of Section I of the TFA as just presented by the Secretariat showed that implementation of WCO instruments such as the RKC could be significant.
88. The Delegate of the Customs Administration of Togo indicated the importance of the ECP and mentioned the necessity of clarifying the concept of CBM in his region. He highlighted the need for his Administration and probably also his region to benefit from capacity building in the area of CBM. He also indicated to the Secretariat that his Customs Administration would volunteer to use the RKC Toolkit for quality implementation assessment.
89. The Deputy Director recognized the importance of the CBM concept and indicated that the Secretariat would wait until any formal request for cooperation and support was sent accordingly. She also appreciated Togo's willingness to work with the Secretariat on the use of the Toolkit.

90. The Chairperson summarized and concluded this item.

Conclusion

91. The Committee took note of the Secretariat's presentations and delegates' comments and observations on this item.

92. In conclusion, the RKC/MC especially took note of the update on the current status of the WTO TFA and the Mercator Programme.

X. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT

93. The Committee adopted the Report.

*
* *
*

Revised Kyoto Convention Management Committee

13th Session
6-7 November 2014

Comité de Gestion de la Convention de Kyoto révisée

13^{ème} session
6-7 novembre 2014

	PARTICIPANTS	TEL	FAX	E-Mail
CHAIRPERSON / PRESIDENT : Mr. Yukitomo USUTANI (Japan/Japon)				
CONTRACTING PARTIES/PARTIES CONTRACTANTES - MEMBERS / MEMBRES				
Australia / Australie				
	Mr. Dean CHURCH Counsellor Australian Customs & Border Protection Service	003222860585	003222302022	dean.church@customs.gov.au
Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan				
	Mr. Javad GASIMOV Chief of Customs Control Head Department State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan Republic	0099 412 4042286		dashgin@gmail.com

Belgium / Belgique				
	Mr. Hans PIETERS Attaché - International Relations General Administration of Customs and Excise	+32 257 77 647		hans.peters@minfin.fed.be
Bulgaria / Bulgarie				
	Mrs. Zdravka GORANOVA Chief Expert National Customs Agency	003592 98594021	003592 98594128	Zdravka.Goranova@customs.bg
Canada				
	Mr. Fortier STEVE Canada Border Services Agency Mission of Canada to the EU	32027410665	32027410606	steve.fortier@international.gc.ca
China / Chine				
	Mr. Xiangyang SUN Customs Section China Mission to the EU	0494519297	027753094	sunxiangyang@skynet.be
	Ms. Ye DING Customs Section China Mission to the EU	0494519297	027753094	dingye@skynet.be
Dominican Republic / République dominicaine				
	Mrs. Matos PATRIA Coordonnatrice Technique, Sous- direction Technique, DGA Direction Générale des Douanes	+8095477070	+8095471086	p.paulino@dga.gov.do

	Mrs. Martínez MARCEL Technique Senior Direction Générale des Douanes	+8095477070	+8095471086	m.sarita@dga.gov.do
	Mrs. Gonzalez Nicasio ALFONSINA Ministre Conseillère Embassy of the Dominican Republic	3223464935	3223465152	embajadombxl@gmail.com
European Union / Union européenne				
	Mrs. Susanne JACOBSEN Head of Sector European Commission	02 2955682		susanne.jacobsen@ec.europa.eu
	Mr. Mark DILLON Administrator - Unit B4 European Commission - DG TAXUD	02 2955682	02 2963653	mark.dillon@ec.europa.eu
Finland / Finlande				
	Ms. Pirjo KOTRO Project Manager Finnish Customs	00 358 40 33 22634		pirjo.kotro@tulli.fi
France				
	Mr. Alexis SAHAGUIAN Délégué bureau Politique du dédouanement Direction générale des douanes et Droits indirects	330157534685		alexis.sahaguian@douane.finances.gouv.fr

Hungary / Hongrie				
	Ms. Eva PERCZE Customs Desk Officer National Tax and Customs Organization	+36 1 456 9512	+36 1 210 0201	percze.eva@nav.gov.hu
India / Inde				
	Mr. Batra HARDEEP First Secretary (Trade) Embassy of India	026451860	026451867	fst@indembassy.be
	Mr. Rajendra MEENA Second Secretary Embassy of India	0473342378		meena.rajendra@nic.in
Indonesia / Indonésie				
	Mr. Martediansyah MARTEDIANSYAH Customs Attaché for Brussels Directorate General of Customs and Excise	+62 21 489 0308	+62 21 489 1335	martedi99@yahoo.com
Ireland / Irlande				
	Mr. John Christopher BYRNE Office of the Revenue Commissioners Irish Permanent Representation to the EU	+32 2 2823282		john.byrne@dfa.ie
Japan / Japon				
	Mr. Yukitomo USUTANI First Secretary Embassy of Japan in Belgium	3225000569	3225131556	yukitomo.usutani@mofa.go.jp

Jordan / Jordanie				
	Mr. Yusri AL-MUNTADI Total Quality Assurance Director Jordan Customs Department	962 64623186 ext 2544	962 6 4659641	customs@customs.gov.jo
Kazakhstan				
	Ms. Assel KUANYSHPAYEVA Expert State Revenue Committee	+7 7172 709941		bota_777@mail.ru
Korea (Republic of) / Corée (République de)				
	Mr. Tae Hyun JOO Customs Affairs Embassy of the Republic of Korea	02 661 0070		asub99@hanmail.net
Madagascar				
	Mr. Razanamahery M. Attaché douanier à Bruxelles Direction générale des douanes	003227756842		razanamahery@madagascar-embassy.eu
Malaysia / Malaisie				
	Dr. Sulaiman AHMAD TAUFIK Minister Counsellor (Customs) EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA	+32 2 776 0358	+32 2 772 0026	customsmy@skynet.be
New Zealand / Nouvelle-Zélande				
	Mr. Roseingrave MATTHEW Customs Counsellor New Zealand Embassy	00 32 2 512 10 40	00 32 2 513 48 56	internet2.brussels@skynet.be

Nigeria				
	Mr. Ibrahim MAIKARFI Customs Attaché Nigeria Customs Service	+3227631436		maikarfi_ibrahim@yahoo.com
Norway / Norvège				
	Mr. Roy SKÅRSLETTE Senior Customs Representative Directorate of Customs and Excise	0032473181571	003222300430	roy.skarslette@gmail.com
Papua New Guinea / Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée				
	Mr. Frank BABAGA Assistant Commissioner Customs Modernization PNG Customs Service	+6753127585	+6753231882	babagaf@customs.gov.pg
Portugal				
	Mr. Franciso CURINHA Director Cooperation and Institutional Relations AT-Autoridade Tributária e Aduaneira	00 351 21 881 4367	00 351 21 881 4396	francisco.parra.curinha@at.gov.pt
Russian Federation / Russie (Fédération de)				
	Mr. Dmitry SUBOCHEV Third Secretary (Customs) Embassy of Russia	32495262744	027368189	subochev.customs@mail.ru
Saudi Arabia / Arabie Saoudite				
	Mr. Jasser ALNAHEDH Asst. DG. Risk Management Department Risk Management Dept/Customs Administration	0099661140140091	0099661140140091	Jasser@customs.gov.sa

	Mr. Khalid M ALRUMAIH Customs Specialist Saudi Customs	96614043216	96614043216	conventions@customs.gov.sa
Serbia / Serbie				
	Mrs. Gordana VIDANOVIC Conseiller Mission de Serbie auprès de l'UE	+32478544709		vidanovicg@carina.rs
South Africa / Afrique du Sud				
	Mr. Matome MATHOLE Counsellor Customs South African Embassy	32 2 2854448	32 2 2800963	sars.brussels@skynet.be
Swaziland				
	Ms. Gugu Treasure DLAMINI- ZWANE Customs Attaché Embassy of Swaziland	023474771	023474623	gtzwane@sra.org.sz
Sweden / Suède				
	Mr. Bengt MANSSON Customs Advisor Swedish Customs	+46 40 6613 182	+46 40 6613 229	bengt.mansson@tullverket.se
Togo				
	Mr. Pilakiwé ABOUZI MC Douane Administration des douanes togolaises	228 9340667		abkfp1@yahoo.fr

Turkey / Turquie				
	Mrs. SOYSANLI ÖZLEM Customs Counsellor Turkish Embassy in Brussels	3225134166	3225134166	o.soyanli@gtb.gov.tr
Ukraine				
	Mr. Yehor BIELKIN Consellor (Customs Matters) State Fiscal Service	3223792118	3223409879	e.belkin@mfa.gov.ua
United Arab Emirates / Emirats arabes unis				
	Mr. Al Agroobi SUOUD Director of International Relations Federal Custom Authority - UAE	971506269991		alagroobi@customs.ae
	Ms. Amna AL MANDOOS Legal Researcher, Legal Affairs Federal Customs Authority	00971501626161		aalmandoos@customs.ae
	Mr. Omran BUKHALAF Head of Audit Abu Dhabi Customs	00971559920000		omran.bukhalaf@dof.abudhabi.ae
United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni				
	Mrs. Gillian CASTLE Senior Policy Advisor HM Revenue & Customs	+443000585816	+442070131	gillian.castle@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk
	Mrs. Castle GILLIAN Senior Policy Advisor HM Revenue & Customs	443000585816		gillian.castle@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

Vietnam				
	Mrs. Nguyen Thi Khanh HONG Commercial Section Mission of Vietnam to the EU	32494400631	3223470335	hongntk73@customs.gov.vn
NON CONTRACTING PARTIES/NON-PARTIES CONTRACTANTES - MEMBERS / MEMBRES				
Angola				
	Mr. Osvaldo MICHINGE Head of Legal Department Angolan National Customs Service	00244917656449		omichinge@alfandega.gv.ao
	Mr. Keto CARVALHO Policy and Procedures Department Angolan National Customs Service	00244917656449		kcarvalho@alfandega.gv.ao
Benin / Bénin				
	Mr. Marcellin LAOUROU Inspecteur des Douanes Direction Générale des Douanes et Droits Indirects	+22997089723	+22921316786	marcellinl2002@yahoo.fr
Comoros / Comores				
	Mr. Youssouf SAID HAMZA Chef de service de la coopération internationale Administration Générale des Douanes et Droits indirects	00 269 3234091	00 269 7738005	yousouf.saidhamza@douanes.km
Congo (Republic of the) / Congo (République du)				
	Mr. Narcisse MILANDOU Directeur de la réglementation et du contentieux DGDDI	00242055708347		gomeztseket@yahoo.fr

	Mr. Joseph LOMINGUI Chef de service antidrogue DGDDI	00242055708347		gomeztseket@yahoo.fr
	Mr. Andre NGOGNIAGA Ambassade Congo Brazzaville en Belgique Douanes Congolaises	0466167463	02 6462220	ossolakima_2003@yahoo.fr
Gambia / Gambie	Mrs. Zainab JAWARA ALAMI Deputy Director Legal Gambia Revenue Authority	220 7781133	220 4226803	zjawara@hotmail.com
Haiti / Haïti	Mr. Clovis NOEL Directeur General Adjoint Administration Générale des douanes	00 509 37013233		clovisnoel3@yahoo.fr
Libya / Libye	Mr. KALFA ABDEL HAKIM DIRECTOR DEPUTY OF GENERAL DIRECTOR Libyan Customs Administration	00218213335394	00218213335394	ico@customs.ly
	Mr. BALAL ABDUNABI DIRECTOR of International Cooperation Office Libyan Customs Administration	00218213335394	00218213335394	ico@customs.ly
	Mr. ELTAIB BAHLOL International Cooperation Office Administrator Libyan Customs Administration	00218213335394	00218213335394	ico@customs.ly

Mexico / Mexique	Mr. Carlos ENRIQUEZ Minister Representative to the WCO and EU Customs Attaché Mexico	0471960004		drios@embamex.eu
	Mr. Daniel RIOS Counsellor Representative to the WCO and the EU Customs Attaché Mexico	0471960004		drios@embamex.eu
	Mr. Marcoflavio RIGADA Central Administrator of Customs Regulations Mexico	0471960004		drios@embamex.eu
Thailand / Thaïlande	Mr. Apichat BOONRUENGSAK Director of International Law Division Customs Department	+662 6677495		mooja_san@hotmail.com
	Mr. Aphichat AUMYOO Legal Officer Customs Department	+6626677495		mooja_san@hotmail.com
	Mr. Sukal SIRICHANDILOK Legal Officer Customs Department	+6626677495		mooja_san@hotmail.com
NON-MEMBERS / NON-MEMBRES				
Chinese Taipei / Taipei chinois	Ms. Shu-Lin HUANG Officer Customs Administration, MOF	+8862 2550 5500 ext. 2931	+8862 2550 8112	008099@webmail.customs.gov.tw

	Mr. Chun-Fu LIN Auditor Customs Administration, MOF	+8862 2550-5500 ext. 2530	+8862 2550-8104	006985@webmail.customs.gov.tw
SECRETARIAT				
Gaozhang ZHU	Director, Compliance and Facilitation			
Heike BARCZYK	Deputy Director, Compliance and Facilitation			
Samson BILANGNA	Technical Officer			
Oluimo DA SILVA	Technical Attaché			
Joëlle DESCHAMPS	Translator			
Stella HAMILL	Translator			
Carine DE KEYSER	Support Staff			
Déborah LA MONICA	Support Staff			
INTERPRETERS / INTERPRETES				
Paula LOPEZ NOVELLA				
Axelle DESMONS				
Carine PUTTEVILS				
TECHNICIAN / TECHNICIEN				
Nicolas PIROTTE				

*
* *
*

ANNEX II



Questionnaire

This Questionnaire is aimed at gathering information from the WCO members and especially Contracting Parties on the possible need and remit of revising/updating the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC). Please send your response to the WCO Secretariat (Fax: +32 2209 9493 or e-mail: facilitation@wcoomd.org).

RESPONSE BY: _____

I. Questions for Contracting Parties:

Q1. Did you or are you having difficulties in implementing the RKC Standards and what was or is the nature of those difficulties?

Q2 Has your Administration ever considered the possibility of expressing the need for revising/updating the RKC?

No. **Why?** _____
Go to question 5.

Yes. **If yes, go to question 3.**

Q3. If the answer to Q2 is **Yes**, which part of the RKC would you like to propose to be revised/updated? (Please outline reasons for revising/updating precise part(s) of the Convention.)

Part	Precise part	Reason(s)
a) Body		
b) General Annex		
c) Specific Annexes		
d) Guidelines		

Q4. If the answer to Q2 is **Yes**, please indicate any additional Customs initiative or procedure (e.g. Authorized Economic Operator, Coordinated Border Management, Single Window, etc) that you would like to see included, and in which part of the Convention should the initiative or initiatives be included?

Q5. Please indicate the national process that you will have to follow to accept/approve any potential revision/amendments to the RKC (e.g. ratification process via Parliament or any other

national body). Is there a difference in the national procedures to reflect changes made in the body of the RKC, the General Annex or the Specific Annexes?

Q6. Do you have any further observations or comments that you wish to make?

II. Questions for non-contracting Parties:

Q1. Are there any RKC provisions or other matters such as procedural difficulties that are preventing your accession to the RKC? (Please provide details.)

Q2. Would a possible revision process of the RKC negatively impact on your accession efforts?

Q3. What, if any, changes to the RKC would motivate you to accede to the RKC? If you so wish, please indicate any additional Customs initiative(s) or procedure(s) (e.g. Authorized Economic Operator, Coordinated Border Management, Single Window, etc) that you would like to see included, and in which part of the Convention should the initiative(s) be included?

Q4. Do you have any further observations or comments that you wish to make?
