3rd Conference of European Customs Chemists

27 – 29 June 2007, Athens - GREECE

The role of customs laboratories in facilitating trade and guaranteeing safety and security

Organised by
the European Commission Directorate General Taxation and Customs Union,
the Greek Directorate General of Customs and Excise Duties
and the General Chemical State Laboratory
with the Group of European Customs Laboratories (GCL)
under the Customs 2007 programme

PROGRAMME
Day 1 : Wednesday 27 June 2007
Opening - Trade Facilitation and Classification
Chairs: Mr Dionysios Mantelis and Mrs Maria Katsouli

Official inauguration and welcoming addresses
- Mr Dionysios Mantelis – Honorary Director of the General Chemical State Laboratory - Welcoming addresses
- Mr Antonis Mpezas - Undersecretary of Economy and Finance - Official inauguration
- Mr Kanlis Aristotelis - Director General of the DG of General State Laboratory – Official inauguration
- Mr Athanasios Vytinaros - Director of the 3rd Direction of Customs Personnel – Official inauguration
- Mr Kristian Vangrieken - Head of Unit Convention of HS, combined nomenclature, tariff classification - Official inauguration by the European Commission Directorate General Taxation and Customs Union.

Opening
- Mrs Dinah Brandful - Customs Laboratory, Ghana - The role of the Customs Laboratory in Trade facilitation and guaranteeing Safety and Security- The Ghanaian perspective.

General Presentation of the activities of the GCL:
- GCL Action 1 – Mrs Adriana Cimmino (Italy)
- GCL Action 2 – Mrs Nadine Varra & Mr Claude Briffaut (France)
- GCL Action 3 – Mrs Anastasia Fragou (Greece)
- GCL Action 4 – Mr Hervé Schepers (European Commission)

Plenary Session - Classification and Trade Facilitation
Chair: Mr Berthold Hunten
- Mr Dirk Meursing - The Meursing table : a short history.
- Mr Eduard Arruga i Valeri – Conferation of the Food and Drink Industries of the EU (CIAA)
  - Panorama and trends of the EU food and drink industry.
- Mr Moncef Hadhri – European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) Industrial Policy Department- The future of the European Chemical Industry.
- Mr Miguel Parraga – Customs Laboratory, Spain - The development of new biotechnological products and its impact in the H.S. Nomenclature.
- Mr Armodios Yannidis – Hellenic Association of Chemical Industries, Greece - Customs authorities chemists and Chemical Industry: the relation between an important authority and a large industrial sector.
- Mr George Zografos – Greek Federation of the Customs Agents, Greece - Intervention of Customs Chemists Laboratories in contemporary Customs Procedures.
- Mr Ioannis Konstantinias – 17th Directorate of Tariff Classification, Greece – The European Binding Tariff Information (EBTI).
- Mr Claude Guillou – Joint Research Centre, European Commission - Fiscalis work on alcohol. Project ACAP: Analytical Characterisation of Alcoholic Products (WORKSHOP)
Workshop on alcohol and alcoholic products
Chair: Mr Roman Schoula
Rapporteur: Mr Przemyslaw Soltys

- Mr Constantinos Staphylakis & Mr Stavros Samios - General Chemical State Laboratory, Division of Alcohol, Alcoholic Drinks, Wine and Beer, Greece - Novel techniques for the production of alcohol. New products. Approaches on taxation issues and control procedures.

- Mrs Tiziana Bruno – Customs Laboratory, Italy - Determination of fundamental production parameters to control the production of beer in Microbreweries: a comparative study.

- Mr Stanislav Ondroušek - Customs Laboratory, Czech Republic - Determination of denaturants in alcohol, alcoholic beverages, and antifreeze and windshield wiper fluids.

Workshop on agricultural products
Chair: Mr Joerg-Wilhelm Peltzer
Rapporteur: Mr Alvaro Fernandez-Acebes

- Mr Volker Knufinke – Customs Laboratory Berlin, Germany - Juice and sugar – a valuable good for international trade.

- Mr Stelios Yiannopoulos - State General Laboratory, Cyprus – Problems arising when using analytical results and their interpretation for classification of dairy products for export refund or for import duties.

- Mrs Nadine Varra – Customs Laboratory Paris, France – Results of the 2007 GCL proficiency test related to the Meursing table.

Workshop on industrial products
Chair: Mr Jonas Reklaitis
Rapporteur: Mrs Ino Vei

- Mrs Lambrini Fasia & Mr Apostolos Kontogeorgakos, General Chemical State Laboratory, B Division of Athens, Greece- Technical difficulties for the correct classification and the enforcement of anti-dumping measures (ceramics and pottery, tropical wood, cast-iron).

- Mr Mathias Stonner - Customs Laboratory Köln, Germany - Cast Iron, malleable or non-malleable? Chemical and structural analysis, differentiation of several types and tariff classification.

- Mr Konstantinos Kaiopoulos - 19th Directorate for Customs Procedures, Greece - Tariff classification and trade facilitation: the case of dual use items.

- Mr Philippe Brunerie - DG Taxation and Customs Union, European Commission – Adaptation of the customs nomenclature to the progress in plastics and elastomers.

Reporting and Sharing on workshops
Practical workshop

Visit at the E’ Customs office of Piraeus :

✔ Demonstration of the operation of the container X-Ray.
✔ Demonstration on how dogs detectors of drugs and substances work.

Chair: Mr Ivor Cohen and Mrs Alexandra Naumova

Plenary Session - Safety and Environment

- Mr Pol Meuleneire – Customs, Belgium : Problems with chemical products during customs controls.
- Mrs Maria Dedemadi - 33rd Directorate of Customs Control, Greece - Drugs and precursors customs control. The Greek experience.
- Ms Sindy Rottiers - DG Taxation and Customs Union, European Commission – Safety and risk analysis in customs control, the Risk Information Form.
- Mrs Kathleen Hendrix - DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission - The REACH Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals; the Commission Proposal on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures, incorporating the UN Globally Harmonised System into Community Law.
- Mrs Katarina Pirselova - DG Environment, European Commission - REACH : how could it affect Customs ?
- Mr Jim Curlin – United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) – Combating illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities through the Green Customs initiative.
- Mrs Mireille de Beurs – Customs Laboratory, The Netherlands – Customs work at the laboratory for the Waste shipment regulation (regulation EU/1013/06).
- Mr Stelios Lekatos - General Chemical State Laboratory, Division of Fuels, Greece - Biofuels in E.U.: Definition, policy framework , E.U. strategy, standardisation, tax regimes.
- Mr Peter Rughbjerg - Regional Tax Center, Denmark – The training of snifferdogs in the National Tax and Customs Administration with the aim of finding the precursors BMK & PMK.
Day 3 : Friday 29 June 2007
Security and Future - Closing

Chair: Mr Ger Koomen

- Mr Daniel Cardozo – Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) – Chemicals to be monitored under the Chemical Weapons Convention and their trade.
- Mr John Gardikis - General Chemical State Laboratory, Division of Environment, Greece- Organisation of a laboratory for the detection of chemical weapons at the General Chemical State Laboratory during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.
- Mrs Aeggeli Matouka - 33rd Directorate of Customs Control, Greece - The role of Customs on enhancing security: Greek experience.
- Mr Ira Reese - U.S. Customs and Border Protection, United States of America - Customs Chemists work on-site with Customs Officers.
- Mr Richard Tomsett - HM Revenue and Customs, UK - Overview of National Detection Technology Project (Badger).
- Mr Tom Bromell - L3 communications - New technology introduced to Schiphol: body, cargo and CT scanning.
- Mr Motoo Yamagishi - Central Customs Laboratory, Japan – Japan Customs Inspection Machinery for safety.
- Mr William Nolle – Customs and Border Protection, U.S.A. - Single Window concept and data harmonization in view of the commodity identification, the WCO data model.

Chair: Mr Jean-Jacques Belliardo

- Mrs Rita Kapiller-Dezsofi and Mrs Csilla Benedek – Customs Laboratory, Hungary - Hungarian experience on the operation of mobile laboratories.
- Mr Ger Koomen – Customs Laboratory, The Netherlands - Summary of the Customs 2007 Workshop on Mobile detection (Amsterdam 16-17 November 2006).
- Mr Hugues Plissart de Brandignies – European Committee for standardization (CEN) – European and international (ISO) standardized analytical methods in laboratories and in customs legislation.
- Prof Dr Paul De Bièvre – International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) - The Function of IUPAC on the Intercontinental Scene, relevant to this Conference.
- Mr Roman Schoula & Mr Peter Szoke – Customs Laboratories, Czech Republic & Hungary – Sampling : towards sampling guidelines.
- Mrs Diane Keller - Laboratory and Scientific Services, Canada Border Services Agency, Canada– Future of the Scientific Sub-Committee of WCO
- Mr Peter Young - DG TAXUD Unit C1, European Commission - Project of Customs Laboratories Blue Print.
- Mr Panos Gredis - Former Official of the European Commission DG Enlargement- Brief presentation of TAIEX.

Closing Session

- Mr Hervé Schepers – DG TAXUD Unit B3, European Commission - Conclusions and Closing of the Conference