

Trade and Investment Knowledge Centre

ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation

Tuesday, 29 October 2019, 9:30 – 17:30 | Wednesday, 30 October 2019, 9:00 – 12:30

Location: Sheraton Saigon Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

SUMMARY RECORD

Welcome Remarks and Opening of the Meeting

- *Norm Schenk, Chair, ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*
- Norm Schenk, opened the meeting by thanking the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ICC's newest National Committee, for their support in hosting and welcoming members to Ho Chi Minh City.
- In his opening remarks, Mr Schenk acknowledged the international and diverse representation in the room and emphasized the importance of ICC's partnerships with the international and regional organizations present. Participation spanned across all regions of the world and sectors of the economy.
- Mr Schenk also thanked the Commission meetings' sponsors, DS Avocats, Boomerang Carnet and UPS, who made the Commission meeting in Vietnam possible.
- The summary record of the Commission's last meeting, 06-07 November 2018, in Paris was adopted.

Implementation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement

- *Aimé Murigande, Representative, World Trade Organization*
- *Valerie Picard, Deputy Director, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, ICC*

Update on TFA Implementation

- Mr Aimé Murigande provided an update on the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). At the time of the Commission meeting, 146 countries had ratified the TFA, with a remaining 17 countries yet to ratify. When noting the significant progress made over the last year, Mr Murigande highlighted the important roles of ICC, the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO) in supporting its implementation. The measures with the highest rate of implementation include Article 9: Movement of Goods, Article 10.5: Preshipment Inspection, Article 10.6: Use of Customs Brokers, Article 5.2: Detention and Article 10.9: Temporary Admission. While a lot of progress has been made, the measures with the lowest rate of implementation include Article 10.4: Single Window, Article 7.7: Authorized Operators, Article 5.3: Test Procedures, Article 3: Advance Rulings and Article 8: Border Agency Cooperation. Mr Murigande noted that there is still work to be done on raising general awareness, on what the TFA covers and what it does not. The WTO together with its partners have organised a number of trainings for governments and more recently the private sector.
- In February 2019, ICC presented at the WTO Workshop on the synergies between implementing the WTO TFA and the WTO Customs Valuation Agreement (CVA).

For Action:

- ICC has been invited to support a WTO TFA/CVA Workshop in Abuja in May 2020.
- The next meeting of the WTO TFA Committee will take place 10-11 February 2020 in

Geneva. The Annex D groups are likely to organise a side-meeting at this time.

- ICC will continue to support the implementation of the WTO TFA in the context of the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation and encourage synergies with the review of the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC).

Update on Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation

- Valerie Picard provided an overview of the Alliance. The Alliance works to help governments in developing and least developed countries implement the TFA by bringing together the public and private sectors as equal partners to identify and deliver commercially meaningful reforms.
- The Alliance completed its first project in August 2019, demonstrating a significant reduction in time and cost of trade for business. The project involved working with Colombia's National Institute for Drug and Food Surveillance (INVIMA) to introduce a risk management system (RMS) to facilitate trade while protecting public health.
- The Alliance is currently implementing ten trade facilitation projects in Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Zambia and a regional project across Latin America and the Caribbean. The Alliance is scoping additional projects in Costa Rica, India, Nigeria, the Pacific Islands (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu), Senegal and Tunisia.
- A key focus of 2020 will be the launch of the Alliance's Business Action Projects initiative which is being led by ICC. This gives official Alliance business partners the opportunity to pitch their ideas for targeted and measurable trade facilitation projects and to actively help the Alliance identify, design and implement projects. All project ideas must be validated in-country and address at least one article of the TFA. The first submission window for project ideas opened on 7 January 2020 and closes on 6 March 2020. Subsequent submission windows will follow.

For Action:

- Members interested in hearing more about current or developing projects are encouraged to visit www.tradefacilitation.org or contact [Valerie Picard](#).

WCO Update

- *Norm Schenk, Chair, ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*
- *Rachel Dignam, Knowledge Manager, ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*

Update and Exchange of Views on Latest Developments of ICC-WCO Strategic Work

- ICC and the WCO have a long-standing and strategic partnership. As an observer to the WCO, ICC provides the voice of international business into a number of working groups. While the WCO regularly attends ICC Commission meetings, unfortunately, on account of the WCO Permanent Technical Committee (PTC), a WCO representative was unable to attend this meeting.
- Norm Schenk presented a high-level summary of the WCO's Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 and ICC's engagement. The WCO 2019-2022 Strategic Plan contributes to the WCO Mission Statement in terms of carrying out the Strategic Actions and ensuring the continuity of the WCO's role as the only international organisation completely focused on setting international standards for Customs procedures, fostering Customs-to-Customs cooperation and providing its Members with capacity building. The WCO's

three main focus areas remain trade facilitation, revenue collection and the protection of society. The theme for 2020 will be "Customs Fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and Planet".

- The leading priorities for 2019-2022 are: the strategic review of the Harmonized System, coordinated border management, the comprehensive review of the Revised Kyoto Convention, integrity, E-Commerce, safety and security, performance measurement, capacity building, IT and data analytics.

Free Trade Zones

- Rachel Dignam provided an update on ICC's work on Free Trade Zones (FTZs). In 2017, ICC published its [Business Recommendations on Illicit Trade in Free Trade Zones](#) recognising that, while FTZs can play an important role in fostering trade flows and encouraging foreign investment, there are often challenges that stem from the limited Customs oversight and lack of harmonisation of Customs procedures. As commodity chains and trading patterns become increasingly more complex, the need for closer collaboration between business and Customs administrations to understand these realities is increasingly more important.
 - a. ICC-WCO Joint Survey
 - As a result, in May 2019, ICC and the WCO launched a [Joint Survey](#) to garner a better understanding of the business realities within and alongside FTZs. This was in an effort to highlight best practices and offer possible solutions that can help shape the necessary guidelines/frameworks needed to promote international coherence when engaging within these economic zones. The survey ran from May to September 2019 and over 291 responses from 6 regions of the world were received.
 - The survey covered four key areas: economic benefits, Customs procedures and controls, illicit trade, and cooperation. The survey highlighted that the most important economic benefit was the exemption from duties and taxes (75%), followed by tax incentives and use of foreign currency. The most profound facilitation benefits were simplified Customs procedures, expedited Customs intervention, and a one-stop-shop with the government. Businesses favoured less audits, and a greater focus on trade rather than enforcement. Businesses stated that 24/7 Customs involvement, especially in the approval process, more data sharing with Customs, utilisation of the AEO concept, and electronic single window were areas for improvement.
 - b. WCO Research Paper and Draft Guidance on Special Customs Zones
 - In parallel to the Joint ICC-WCO Survey, the WCO developed a [draft Research Paper](#) and a draft Guidance on Special Customs Zones which were presented to the WCO PTC in October and later to the Policy Commission in December 2019.
 - c. Review of ICC Special Project Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (BASCAP) [Controlling the Zone](#) paper
 - The ICC Secretariat is also working closely with ICC BASCAP as they seek to update the Controlling the Zone paper. The 2013 paper primarily focuses on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and security. The new version is expected to have an expanded scope that will look beyond just the IPR aspects.

For Action:

- Members and National Committees are invited to contact [Rachel Dignam](#) should they be interested in:
 - Providing comments on the WCO Draft Guidance
 - Participating in the WCO Free Trade Zone Conference to be held on 29 June 2020 at WCO Headquarters in Brussels
 - Supporting the update of BASCAP's Controlling the Zone paper.

Revised Kyoto Convention

- An update on the WCO RKC working group and the next steps for ICC engagement were provided by Norm Schenk and Rachel Dignam.
- The WCO [International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures](#), widely known as the RKC, is recognised as the blueprint for modern and efficient Customs and trade facilitation procedures. The comprehensive yet simple set of global standards, outlined in the RKC, is essential to streamlining border processes to ease cross-border transactions and promote trade for businesses of all sizes. Since the RKC entered into force in 2006, the WCO has developed a number of important tools and instruments to facilitate the implementation of the Convention. In an effort to better align with the needs of modern Customs and business, certain aspects of the Convention are being considered for review.
- In June 2018, the WCO Council approved the establishment of a working group and the allocation of resources for a three-year internal review. The working group is undertaking a review of the legal text of the RKC and has begun to evaluate a number of horizontal issues.
- ICC has strongly advocated for more transparency on the progress of the review and has underlined the need for the private sector to be included from the early stages of revision.
- The 6th meeting of the RKC working group took place from 14-18 October 2019. It was the first meeting that the private sector and other external stakeholders were invited to attend.
- More than 170 proposals covering 37 concepts were put forth by Members of the WCO and external stakeholders. Some of the proposals which generated more interest included those relating to: Periodic Update Mechanism, Electronic Declarations, Processing of Goods, Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation, Data Issues, Advance Cargo Information, Authorized Economic Operators, Customs' Role in Security, Advance Rulings, Warehouses, Free Zones, API/PNR on passengers, Travellers, Rules of Origin, Coordinated Border Management, Single Window, and the Time Release Study.
- Four possible priority areas for ICC engagement were identified:
 - Specific Annex K Rules of Origin: Several proposals were made to revise Specific Annex K on Rules of Origin. The lack of distinction between non-preferential and preferential rules of origin in the current RKC, and the inability to address both concepts in the way of substance and procedures has been raised repeatedly. At the 7th working group meeting, informal meetings were held and a consolidated Joint Proposal was developed by the EU, China, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, UNCTAD, EEC, Renault Nissan and Fonterra. The proposal will be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the WCO Working Group on Rules of Origin.
 - Specific Annex D Free Trade Zones: A significant discussion took place

- surrounding the current definition and whether it was clear enough that Customs have oversight in the zones with the exception of collecting duties and taxes. The working group remains divided on this issue.
- General Annex – Transitional Standard 3.32 Authorized Persons: While the current RKC provides for ‘special procedures for authorized persons’, the concept of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) was further developed in the context of the SAFE Framework of Standards. The revision of the RKC could, therefore, be an opportunity to strengthen AEO programmes.
 - Performance measurement: Another area of great focus was on how to track and harmonise the implementation of the RKC. Based on the discussions at the 6th working group meeting, it appeared that Customs was leaning towards self-review. The private sector did not support this.
 - The WCO RKC Management Committee will include specific discussions on the concepts of Future Proofing, Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation, Free Zones and Rules of Origin in the agenda of its next meeting, to be held in February 2020.

For Action:

- ICC has taken note of the priority areas for Members and National Committees. Pending the interest received following the Commission meeting, ICC will establish a working group to review the proposals and possibly prepare an ICC RKC submission ahead of the March 2020 WCO RKC meeting. Interested Members and National Committees are to contact [Rachel Dignam](#).
- In the interim: Martin van der Weide will represent ICC during the WCO Technical Meeting on Rules of Origin in February 2020. No formal ICC submission will be made, but National Committees and Members interested in providing preliminary input on the Joint Proposal are encouraged to do so by 27 January to [Julie Sonladuangchanh](#) and [Rachel Dignam](#). Norm Schenk will represent ICC at the February 2020 RKC Management Committee meeting.

Authorized Economic Operators

- At the time of the Commission meeting, there were 84 operational AEO programmes, 74 Mutual Recognition Agreements and 4 Plurilateral/Regional Agreements. Despite this proliferation, the private sector is yet to realise any real benefits. ICC has long [advocated](#) that in order for such programmes to be beneficial, there needs to be more coherence and harmonisation. The scope of the programmes needs to extend beyond Customs to other border authorities and the concept of account-based management needs to be deployed. The barriers of entry for SMEs have also been repeatedly raised.
- In the context of the WCO SAFE Working Group, significant discussion has recently taken place around the need to effectively monitor, evaluate and enhance AEO programmes under the notion of “AEO 2.0”. A draft concept paper was presented at the October 2019 meeting, covering the various challenges raised by ICC and recognising the evolving dynamics of international trade. The need for a minimum standard of criteria and the potential of the different programmes being recognised and validated by the WCO was raised. The WCO Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG) is preparing a draft paper to feed into the discussions, of which ICC is taking part.

- Valerie Picard provided an update on the role of the Alliance in the Authorized Economic Operator Regional Recognition Arrangement between Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. The Alliance will survey AEO companies to gather their experiences, ideas for improvements, and views on best practices. Once the arrangement is signed, the Alliance will support the design and development of an IT platform for the participating countries to efficiently manage and exchange AEO data.

For Action:

- ICC will continue to monitor the development of the concept AEO 2.0 in the context of the WCO SAFE Working Group and PSCG.
- Norm Schenk and Rachel Dignam will represent ICC at the WCO Global AEO Conference taking place in Dubai from 10-12 March 2020. Members interested in participating are encouraged to contact [Rachel Dignam](#).
- Members interested in participating in the Alliance AEO project are encouraged to contact [Valerie Picard](#).

Harmonized System

- Jeff Bensing updated the Commission on the June 2019 WCO Council decisions impacting the Harmonized System (HS). The Council adopted the Article 16 Council Recommendation concerning the amendment of the HS Nomenclature (2022 version) to reflect changes in technology and patterns in international trade, as well as the needs of users. In addition, the Amendment of Article 8 of the HS Convention will enter into force on 1 January 2021. Further, Mr Bensing updated members on the 64th Session of the HSC, including the re-examination requests for various products, potential new questions for the HSC to consider, and possible amendments to the Explanatory Notes.
- Norm Schenk updated the Commission on the HS Strategic Review. To reflect the modern dynamics of trade, the WCO is undertaking a strategic review to ensure its continued relevance and identify necessary updates that mirror today's trading realities. From the onset, the WCO has engaged the private sector and other external partners. In May 2019, the WCO hosted a [Multistakeholder Conference on the Future of the Harmonized System](#). At the conference ICC's Head HS Delegate, Ken Montgomery and Chair Norm Schenk, presented ICC's high-level [submission](#).
- Following the May 2019 Conference and input received from the HSC and Policy Commission, the WCO prepared a draft Business Case. The WCO will further update and finalise the Business Case based on additional input received, and as required, for presentation to the WCO Finance Committee in April 2020.

For Action:

- Members and National Committees are encouraged to provide comments on the draft WCO Business Case by Friday 17 January 2020 to [Rachel Dignam](#).

E-Commerce

- *Norm Schenk, Chair, ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*
- *Rachel Dignam, Knowledge Manager, Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*

WCO E-Commerce Working Group

- Norm Schenk provided an update on ICC's involvement in the WCO Working Group on E-Commerce.
- In June 2018, the WCO Policy Council adopted the core elements of [the E-Commerce Framework of Standards](#) containing 15 Standards that set the baseline for global standards for cross-border E-Commerce.
- The mandate of the WCO Working Group was extended to June 2019 to complete the Technical Specifications, Definitions, Data Elements, Flow Charts, Business Models, Stakeholders Roles and Responsibilities, Revenue Collection Models, and Implementation Strategy Action Plan and Capacity Building.
- In June 2019, the Policy Commission and Council endorsed [the E-Commerce Package](#), with the exception of three documents (Reference Data Set for E-Commerce; Revenue Collection Approaches; and E-Commerce Stakeholders: Roles and Responsibilities), and extended the mandate of the working group to operate in a virtual manner until June 2020.
- The Commission and its Members were significant contributors in the working group and were instrumental in both shaping positive input and protecting our Members from potentially harmful outcomes (i.e. data elements). The framework will help provide simplified processes and harmonised standards that will benefit businesses of all sizes.

For Action:

- ICC remains engaged within the virtual E-Commerce working group and will be represented by Norm Schenk at the next in-person meeting taking place in Brussels from 12-14 February 2020.

WTO Joint Statement Initiative on Electronic Commerce

- Rachel Dignam, on behalf of Raoul Renard, provided an update on ICC's engagement in the WTO discussions on E-Commerce.
- In May, a lack of business engagement on the Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on electronic commerce was identified by a number of WTO Member countries and senior leadership, and was conveyed to ICC. ICC quickly established a cross-Commission working group to include private sector views into the negotiations.
- ICC has published 4 documents:
 - [5 Ingredients for a High Standard Outcome](#)
 - [ICC Baseline Position](#)
 - [ICC Paper on Taxation of Physical Goods](#)
 - [ICC Paper on the Moratorium for Customs Duties on Electronic Transmission](#)
- Additional documents are in the pipeline for 2020:
 - TFA 2
 - E-payments
- With its Permanent Representative in Geneva, Crispin Conroy, ICC is able to effectively transmit its advocacy tools to JSI negotiators, and ensure the global business voice is heard.
- ICC has hosted three side events at the WTO, with strong participation from JSI negotiators. The events focused on trade facilitation, indirect taxation, e-payments, MSME growth and women entrepreneurship.
- A critical issue that remains is the extension of the moratorium on Customs duties on

electronic transmissions in the immediate term, and for a permanent prohibition on said Customs duties to form part of the JSI agreement. An ICC campaign was launched mid-November [#dontlettariffsbreaktheinternet](#), which included extensive social media, OpEds, interviews and an in-country advocacy campaign. The moratorium was subsequently extended to the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference taking place in Nur-Sultan from 7-13 June 2020.

For Action:

- Members and National Committees are encouraged to sign-up for the ICC working group and disseminate the ICC Position Papers within their local networks. For further information on upcoming engagements contact [Raoul Renard](#).

Customs Valuation

- *Jean-Marie Salva, Vice-Chair, ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*
- *Dinh Song Ha, Representative, General Department of Vietnam Customs (GDVC)*

WCO Technical Committee on Customs Valuation

- Jean-Marie Salva, Head of ICC's TCCV delegation, provided an update on the 48th and 49th WCO TCCV Session.
- During the 48th Session, the delegates were provided with the update that Phase 4 of the WCO Revenue Package was initiated with expected updates on E-Commerce and indirect tax issues. The US provided an update on their adoption of advance rulings for an unlimited period (no sunset clause) and ICC led a discussion on advance ruling mechanisms with a focus on recent developments in China and the EU. A presentation was also made by the OECD on the Customs implications of the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting project.
- During the 49th Session of the TCCV, ICC presented the business model for delivery for pay TV broadcasts following the request of Cameroon on the valuation treatment of amounts paid to access rights to TV bouquets (live case).
- The misuse of Customs valuation databases remains a prominent issue.

Vietnam Customs Post-Clearance Audits

- Dinh Song Ha provided an update on the post-clearance audit processes within Vietnam. He informed the Commission of the structural hierarchy of Vietnamese Customs operations and of the on-going process of transferring this structure into the regional Customs model. This is likely to improve the post-clearance auditing process for businesses. Of greatest impact to the private sector is the development of the Priority Enterprise Programme, which simplifies Customs procedures. The current total import-export turnover of the Priority Enterprises accounts for more than 37% of the total turnover of the country.

Incoterms 2020 and its Impact on Customs

- *Jean-Marie Salva, Vice-Chair, ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*
- Jean-Marie Salva provided the Commission with an update on the implementation of the [Incoterms 2020](#) rules and their impact on Customs issues. The Incoterms 2020 rules were launched in September 2019 and came into force on 1 January 2020. These

contract clauses help businesses understand how certain key duties are allocated in contracts for the sale of goods, and describe when risk transfers from seller to buyer. Mr Salva highlighted the three main areas of the 2020 rules, with impact for the Customs community: DAT (delivered at terminal) was renamed DPU (delivered at place unloaded), there is now a differentiation of transport insurance obligations between CIP (carriage and insurance paid to) and CIF (cost insurance and freight), and there is more focus on security-related obligations.

Developments in Transport and Logistics

- *Oliver Peltzer, Vice-Chair, ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*
- *Feng Huang, Representative, Asia-Pacific Model E-Port Network (APMEN)*
- *Ruiyuan Lin, General Manager, Sinotrans (HK) Logistics Limited*

ICC Transport and Logistics Working Group

- Oliver Peltzer provided an update on ICC's transport and logistics work. In 2012, the Commission merged with the Transport and Logistics Commission. In 2017, the Commission relaunched a Transport and Logistics Working Group which identified three priority areas for ICC to further explore: supply chain connectivity and block chain, last mile and urban access, and unmanned vehicles and automated transport. As ICC underwent its transition and the global Work Programme was being developed, the working group was put on hold. The objective of the transport and logistics session of this Commission meeting was to hear from guest speakers and discuss where the Commission believes ICC can add value. Following the meeting, the Commission will make a recommendation to ICC to consider for the next draft of its Work Programme.

For Action:

- Under the leadership of Oliver Peltzer a brief one pager on ICC's engagement in transport and logistics will be prepared with the Transport and Logistics Working Group before being submitted to the ICC Management Team for consideration.

Supply Chain Connectivity

- Feng Huang presented APMEN's trade facilitation and supply chain connectivity initiatives, highlighting sea freight logistics, the digitalisation of air freight logistics, import operation optimisation and the product traceability system. Mr Huang noted the regional under-utilisation of FTAs as result of the complexity of FTA tariff rates and rules of origin criteria. APMEN is currently rolling out the Smart FTAX System to address these complexities with the goal of increasing trade facilitation in the region.

Last Mile and Urban Access

- Ruiyuan Lin presented on urban access and the last mile, with a focus on urbanisation in South East Asia. With growing demand in urban deliveries, there is increased traffic congestion, air pollution and noise levels which are adversely affecting traffic safety, quality of life and urban economic competitiveness. Although cities are addressing challenges associated to human mobility, strategies for last mile delivery at city level are not prioritised and the conventional last miles delivery methods are not able to fulfill customer demand. The overarching challenge is that there are multiple stakeholders with diverging views and objectives and a lack of communication and coordination. Mr Lin presented the case for different logistics strategies and regulatory measures to

address these challenges.

Regional ICC Update

- *Norm Schenk, Chair, ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*
 - *Jean-Marie Salva, Vice-Chair, ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*
 - *Weimin Ren, Director, Transport Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)*
 - *Cuong Ba Tran, Assistant Director, Trade Facilitation Division, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)*
 - *Ngoc Huong Dang, Partner, DS Avocats*
- Each year the Commission intends to meet at either ICC or the WCO and in different regions around the world, on a rotating basis, to reflect the nature of its global scope and membership. It is also a way for members to gain a more in-depth understanding of regional developments and explore further opportunities for collaboration.

Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Activity in Asia and the Pacific

- Weimin Ren presented the UNESCAP programme, which was adopted by Ministers of Transport in December 2016. The programme fosters greater regional consistency and addresses issues such as international intermodal corridors, modern logistics, Asia-Europe connectivity, rural transport, sustainable urban transport systems and road safety. The presentation focused on three pillars of UNESCAP work: the platform for intergovernmental cooperation and policy dialogue, comprehensive capacity building programme and analytical work and data collection. Mr Ren highlighted the potential for private sector engagement in all three pillars, with an emphasis on UNESCAP's Sustainable Business Network (ESBN).

For Action:

- ICC is to arrange a call with UNESCAP to develop a plan for enhanced private sector engagement in the region through the support of ICC's National Committee network.

ASEAN Trade Facilitation Framework

- Cuong Ba Tran updated Members on ASEAN's trade facilitation framework, key areas for improvement and the importance of enhanced private sector engagement. The focus of the future work programme for 2020, includes the implementation of ASEAN commitments on non-tariff measures on Goods (NTMs Guidelines), a WCO Time Release Study, and WTO TFA Category B and C Commitments.

Impact of Rising Trade Tensions and Free Trade Agreements

- Jean-Marie Salva and Ngoc Huong Dang discussed Sino-US and EU-US Trade Wars and how these rising trade tensions will impact global trade facilitation. One impact of these tensions might be the reorganisation of supply chain management and the increase in FTAs, particularly with the case of Vietnam. The presenters also focused on how tariffs and manufacturing centres stand to be impacted.

ICC Academy

- *Jose Kuriachan, Sales Manager, ICC Academy*

Summary:

- Jose Kuriachan presented the [ICC Academy](#) and led a discussion on opportunities for future collaboration. The ICC Academy offers a wide range of specialised e-learning courses and online certifications for trade professionals worldwide. The Academy has produced modules and webinars in coordination with different Commissions and Knowledge Hubs. There have also been discussions with the WCO Academy on how the academies can be linked.

For Action:

- Commission Members and National Committees interested in the modules presented or future collaborations with the Academy are to contact [Jose Kuriachan](#).

World Chambers Federation (WCF)

- *Norm Schenk, Chair, ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*
- *Martin van der Weide, Advisor, Netherlands Chamber of Commerce*
- *Curt Wilson, President, Boomerang Carnet*

Summary:

- The Commission works very closely with WCF on a number of mutual priorities, including rules of origin. WCF is our main access point to SMEs and is a key partner, especially in areas where ICC does not have National Committees.

Certificates of Origin

- Martin van der Weide provided the Commission with an update on the latest developments of the WCF Certificates of Origin (CO) Council.
- The [Second Edition of the International Certificates of Origin Guidelines](#) launched on the occasion of ICC's 100th anniversary, and provides Chambers of Commerce and exporters with updates on new processes, including the digitalisation of the CO process. The Guidelines were warmly endorsed by both the WTO and WCO in the introductory remarks.
- Mr van der Weide also introduced the [WCF CO Accreditation Chain](#) based on the International CO Guidelines, where Chambers commit to the highest level of quality, implementing transparent and accountable verification procedures.
- In addition, a new ICC project was introduced. ICC WCF is to build an in-house engine and an integrated interface system which allows contracting Chambers of Commerce worldwide to certify invoice declarations in the framework of preferential origin in FTAs.

For Action:

- Chambers interested in joining the CO Chain or hearing more about any of the new projects underway at WCF are encouraged to contact [Julie Sonladuangchanh](#).

ATA Carnet: A Private Sector Perspective

- Curt Wilson provided an overview of the ATA Carnet, including its current status and potential in the context of Brexit and E-Commerce. The ATA Carnet is now the document most widely used by the business community for international operations involving the

temporary admission of goods. It is currently used in 78 countries and territories in Europe, North America, South America, Asia, Africa and Oceania. eATA is currently in the second phase of its pilot with participants in the United States, Belgium, Russia, China, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

ICC Strategic Overview

- *Rachel Dignam, Knowledge Manager, Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*
- Rachel Dignam provided an update on the implementation of the ICC Work Programme. The Work Programme is a holistic approach to modernise ICC to ensure it is fit for purpose in today's business climate, and to better position ICC to enable business worldwide to secure peace, prosperity and opportunity for all. It has been developed in a way so that cross-cutting issues are addressed collectively and so that the right expertise across the network can be mobilised. This is, in part, why the Commissions were allocated into different Knowledge Hubs. The Work Programme is for the bi-annum, however, many of the projects will go beyond 2020.

For Action:

- Members are invited to review the attached Work Programme and sign up for outputs beyond their regular engagement in the Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation.

Any Other Business

- *Norm Schenk, Chair, ICC Commission on Customs and Trade Facilitation*

Working Group on Legal Entity Identifier

- Under the auspices of the Finance for Development Knowledge Hub, ICC is launching a new cross-industry working group with the aim to produce a guide promoting the mass adoption of a Legal Entity Identifier (LEI). The new group will work to create an ICC Identity Guide for Business in order to shed a light on the why and how of identity management for exporters and importers. This guide would clarify the complex landscape of relevant actors and identifier systems, businesses come across, while dealing with the process of 'who is who' and 'who owns whom'. The main aim of the guide is to make (inter)nationally operating businesses aware of the importance of the identification compliance requirements and to help them reduce the risks and costs of identity management.

For Action:

- Members and National Committees interested in joining the LEI Working Group are encouraged to contact [Tomasch Kubiak](#).

Date and Location of Next Meeting

- Week of April 27 2020 in Geneva, back-to-back with UNCTAD E-Commerce Week and the meeting of the ICC Commission on Trade and Investment (*tbc*).