

THE BERLIN DECLARATION

We, the Directors General/Commissioners of the Customs Administrations of the ASEM Member States, met in Berlin, Germany on 16-17 October 2017

- NOTING that the 11th ASEM Summit 2016 in Mongolia, which was the 20th anniversary of ASEM, has established itself as an effective forum for interregional cooperation. The summit affirmed the importance of connectivity which brings the two regions closer together, facilitating trade and investment, promoting the exchange of ideas and transfer of information and knowledge. The 1st Meeting of the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity on 21st June 2017 in Brussels and the revival of the ASEM Economic Ministers Meeting on 21-22nd September 2017 in Korea reaffirmed the commitment of all ASEM Members to achieve sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental protection. It called ASEM partners to enhance the efficiency, the coherence the continuity and the visibility of the work of ASEM.
- ACKNOWLEDGING that Customs Administrations can strengthen their capacity to address modern challenges by exchanging experiences and improving cooperation;
- CONFIRMING the need to make further progress in the priority areas confirmed at the ASEM DGs/Commissioners Meeting in Goa, India, in 2015:
 - Trade Facilitation and Security of the Supply Chain
 - Combating Infringements on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
 - Protecting Society and the Environment
 - Involving Business
 - Visibility and Communication
- REALISING that the importance of sustainable protection of the society and the environment while facilitating trade for reliable operators is one of the greatest challenges for Customs Administrations;
- ACKNOWLEDGING the necessity to strengthen cooperation between the relevant agencies both on national and international levels;
- RECOGNISING that the ASEM Customs cooperation should be an essential contributor to combating infringements in the area of intellectual property rights and protecting the society and the environment;

- STRESSING the necessity of moving towards concrete and sustainable operational results;
- FULLY SUPPORTING activities in promoting the visibility of ASEM initiatives and outcomes;

AGREED to focus on the following activities for the next two years (2018 – 2019):

Trade Facilitation and Security of the Supply Chain

- Trade Facilitation and Customs Procedures
- Facilitating paperless Customs processes
- Customs management of cross-border E-Commerce trade lanes
- Connectivity-Transit
- Single Window for speedy clearance, automation & integrated risk management

Combating Counterfeiting and Customs IPR Enforcement

- JCO on Fast Moving Consumer Goods (e.g. personal care products, cosmetics, hygiene products, household care products, food and health beverages)

Protecting the Society and the Environment

- Border enforcement on international postal items

Communication and Visibility

- Visibility of ASEM Aspects

and AGREED to continue to cooperate with the private sector, especially in the framework of the Customs Trade Days.

We, the DGs/Commissioners of the Customs Administrations of the ASEM Member States, will make every effort to implement the above agreed activities and to promote their visibility, convinced that they will lead to fruitful initiatives and outcomes and agree to evaluate results achieved at our next meeting.