



The World Customs Organization and GS1 sign a Memorandum of Understanding

Brussels, 20 November 2007: Michel Danet, Secretary General of the World Customs Organization, and Miguel Lopera, Chief Executive Officer of GS1, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Brussels yesterday in recognition of the wide range of business interests shared by the two organisations and to provide a framework for further cooperation.

GS1's identification numbers can provide the WCO with global standards for the management of goods and assets, and the reconciliation of data. These standards will contribute to the WCO's efforts to secure the trade supply chain, protect society, facilitate international trade, and increase the efficiency and predictability of customs procedures at national borders.

The two organisations agree to cooperate and maintain systematic exchange of information on matters of interest which will include the designation of contact persons to facilitate efficient cooperation, reciprocal invitations to meetings of common interest, joint training activities, exchange of experts, and support for initiatives that continue to harmonise standards in the customs sector.

GS1 will assist the WCO in the development of supply chain standards that meet the requirements of the customs community while the WCO will participate in the standards development work for the customs sector that is currently being done by GS1.

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More information

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About GS1

GS1 is a leading global organisation dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve the efficiency & visibility of the supply and demand chains globally and across sectors. The GS1 system of standards is the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world. Web site: www.gs1.org.

About WCO

The World Customs Organization (WCO), with its 171 Members across the globe responsible for processing approximately 99% of world trade, is the only intergovernmental organisation uniquely focused on customs matters. Recognised as the voice of the international customs community, the WCO is particularly noted for its work in areas covering the development of global standards, the simplification and harmonisation of customs procedures, trade supply chain security, trade facilitation, customs enforcement and compliance, anti-counterfeiting and piracy initiatives, integrated border management, global customs capacity building programmes, the international Harmonized System goods nomenclature, customs valuation and rules of origin. Web site: www.wcoomd.org.