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The World Customs Organization (WCO) will hold Global Forum on Origin Interconnectivity in person at the WCO headquarters in Brussels on 3-4 February 2025.

This event aims to provide a global platform to engage with relevant partners and to facilitate future implementation of the CO interconnectivity, focusing on enhancing trade through the implementation of cross-border exchange of CO. The event will also contribute to disseminate the results of the Feasibility Study on the Interconnectivity Framework for Certificates of Origin.

Digitalizing origin data exchanges: the latest work from the WCO

The WCO started the latest round of work looking at the digitalization of origin related procedures in 2022 when it conducted a survey of WCO Members to understand the then status quo. Eighty-four Customs administrations responded to the survey, and its findings were presented in the Study on the Digitalization of the Certificate of Origin, first published in December 2023 and updated in June 2024.

One of the practices addressed in the study was the establishment of a mechanism between parties to an FTA/PTA to exchange electronic data on proof of origin for goods being imported into, or exported from, their respective countries under a preference claim. Having such mechanisms removes the burden on parties of having to check the authenticity of scanned copies of documentary proof of origin furnished by parties and authorities located in another jurisdiction (exporting country) and enables the authenticity check to be done in "real" time, when the Customs declaration is submitted.

Of the Customs administrations which responded to the survey, 22 indicated that they had set up an IT system for the exchange of origin certification, and nine others that they were developing one. They exchanged two types of proof of origin: the certificate of origin (CO) and the declaration of origin (DO). However, most of practices focused on the exchange of CO data, with only a few having facilities for the exchange of self-declaration of origin data.

With a view to facilitating the establishment of smoother and more efficient exchanges of information related to COs, in September 2023 the WCO launched a project to develop an interconnectivity framework for the certificate of origin. An Informal Working Group (IWG), bringing together the interested Members of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (TCRO), was created to study the process related to the exchange of structured CO data between exporting and importing countries.

The Group used the WCO Globally Networked Customs (GNC) methodology to examine a set of elements for ensuring system interconnectivity, these being: a legal framework, a business process model, a dataset for electronic COs (e-CO) and technical interoperability. The objective was to develop standards for each element and bring them together under an Interconnectivity Framework which would provide partners with a standardized approach for enabling the exchange of CO data under bilateral or multilateral FTAs, and a guide for the development of a technological solution for CO interconnectivity between parties.

During the first phase of the project, the IWG focused on analysing business process models (BPMs) and reviewing the dataset for e-COs which had been developed as part of the WCO Data Model (WCO DM).

The 42nd Session of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (TCRO) was informed of the results of the first phase of the work. Two main elements, namely the Business Process Models (BPM) for the CO and the «Dataset for the e-CO», were presented, discussed and supported, Afterward the results were presented to and endorsed by the 243rd/244th Session of the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC) in April 2024 and approved by the 143rd/144th Session of the Council in June 2024, thus completing the first phase of the feasibility study.

The Interconnectivity Framework for Certificates of Origin (Interim Report - Phase1) has been published at the WCO website.

During the second phase of the project, the IWG focus on developing the legal framework and compliance, as well as the technological requirements and specifications of the Push Model for COs.

The study is expected to be completed by the end of 2024, so as to allow the results to be presented to the 43rd Session of the TCRO in February 2025 for discussion, and then to the Permanent Technical Committee and the Council for approval.





Event title

Global Forum on Origin Interconnectivity



Location

WCO Headquarters Kyoto A, Brussels, Belgium



Dates

Date: Monday 3 to Tuesday 4 February 2025 Time: 9.30 - 17.30 (12.30-14.00 lunch break)



Format

In-person



Languages

English, French, Spanish and Portuguese



Organizers

The Conference is organized by the WCO, in cooperation with the AfCFTA Secretariat, supported by the Korea Customs Service and the European Union (EU) under the EU-WCO Programme for Rules of Origin in Africa.



Target audience

WCO Member Customs administrations, other border agencies, regional economic communities (RECs), international organizations, private sectors, academia, and other stakeholders involved in international trade and origin-related procedures.

What to take from the Global Forum

• Current Best Practices

Learn about successful initiatives and systems adopted for achieving origin interconnectivity.
Understand how digital solutions are being utilized to enhance transparency and efficiency.

• Emerging Trends and Innovations

Stay informed about technological advancements impacting origin certification processes. Explore WCO tools and frameworks for improving interoperability between stakeholders.

• Opportunities for Collaboration

Identify potential partnerships with private sector entities, issuing authorities, Customs administrations, and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Engage with stakeholders to share knowledge and co-create solutions.

• Challenges and Solutions

Analyze the barriers to achieving seamless origin interconnectivity, such as legal framework, and technological requirements. Discuss actionable solutions to overcome these challenges.







English, French, Spanish and Portuguese interpretation.

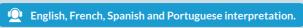
Day One Monday 3 February

08:00	REGISTRATION
09:30 - 10.30	OPENING CEREMONY
09:30 - 09:45	Moderators: Ms. Gael GROOBY, Acting Director, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, WCO Mr. Brendan O'HEARN, Acting Director, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, WCO
09:45 - 10:00	Dr. IM, HYUNCHEOL , Customs attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Kingdo of Belgium and European Union
10:00 - 10:15	Ms. Isabel GARCIA CATALAN, Head of Unit of DG TAXUD A6, European Commission
10:15 - 10:30	Mr. Ricardo TREVIÑO CHAPA, Deputy Secretary General, WCO
10:30 - 11:00	COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING
11:00 - 12:30	PANEL DISCUSSION 1: RELEVANCE/IMPORTANCE OF ORIGIN INTERCONNECTIVITY
	Moderator: Mr. Badr MOUHCINE, Head of EU-WCO Programmes HS and RoO Africa, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, WCO
11:00 - 11:15	Ms. Louise WIGGETT, Chief Executive Officer, Global Trade Solution
11:15 - 11:30	Ms. OUK Chansopheap, Deputy Director of Department of International Customs Cooperation, General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia
11:30 - 11:45	Ms. Aissata KOFFI YAMEOGO, Program Officer in charge of Rules of Origin and Management of Community Preferential Regime, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission
11:45 - 12:00	Ms. Asmaa SAIDI, Office Manager, Rules of Origin Division, The Customs and Excise Administration of the Kingdom of Morocco
12:00 - 12.30	Q&A Session
12:30 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK



14:00 - 15:30	PANEL DISCUSSION 2: INTERCONNECTIVITY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN (CO)
	Moderator: Ms. Sun Hwa CHO, Assistant Director, External Relations Division, Korea Customs Service (KCS)
14:00 - 14:15	Mr. Nitas POLACHAI, Senior Officer, Digital Economy Division, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat
14:15 - 14:30	Mr. Antonino DE LORENZO Senior Expert Ms. Svetlana RAUDONEN, Policy Officer DG TAXUD, European Commission
14:30 - 14:45	Ms. Fiorella CAGNONE CLAVERO, Chief of Valuation and Origin Division, Uruguay Customs
14:45 - 15:00	Ms. Nelisiwe NXUMALO, Manager of Origin, Eswatini Revenue Service (ERS)
15:00 - 15:30	Q&A Session
15:30 - 16:00	COFFEE BREAK
16:00 - 17:30	PANEL DISCUSSION 3: DIGITALIZATION OF THE DECLARATION OF ORIGIN (DO)
	Moderator: Mr. Darlan F. MARTI, Trade policy Specialist, WTO Market Access Division - Secretary of the Committee on Rules of Origin (CRO) of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
16:00 - 16:15	Mr. Sebastian AGUSTINO MACIAS, International Relations Officer, DG TAXUD, European Commission
16:15 - 16:30	Mr. Martin VAN DER WEIDE, Policy Advisor on Origin at the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the ICC/World Chambers Federation International Certificate of Origin Council
16:30 - 16:45	Mr. Chao WU, Deputy section chief, Customs National Supervision Bureau for Duty Collection (Shanghai), General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC)
16:45 - 17:00	Mr. Godsway Smile AGBEMENU, Chief Revenue Officer, Customs Policy and Programme, Ghana Revenue Authority
17:00 - 17:30	Q&A Session
17:30 - 19:00	WELCOME RECEPTION







Day Two Tuesday 4 February

09:30 - 10:45	PANEL DISCUSSION 4 (PART 1): WCO TOOLS ON ORIGIN INTERCONNECTIVITY
	Moderator: Mr. Brendan O'HEARN, Acting Director, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, WCO
09:30 - 09:45	Ms. Chunxiao XU, Technical attaché, Origin Sub-Directorate, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, WCO
09:45 - 10:00	Mr. Tejo KUSUMA, Policy Analyst at the Revenue and Strategic Planning Directorate, Directorate General Customs and Excise, Indonesia
10:00 - 10:15	Mr. Atsushi TANAKA, Deputy Director, Office of Rules of Origin, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, JAPAN
10:15 - 10:45	Q&A Session
10:45 - 11:15	COFFEE BREAK
11:15 - 12:30	PANEL DISCUSSION 4 (PART 2): WCO TOOLS ON ORIGIN INTERCONNECTIVITY
	Moderator: Mr. Brendan C. O'HEARN, Acting Director, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, WCO
11:15 - 11:30	Mr. Donggeun KIM, Technical Attaché, Facilitation Sub-Directorate, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, WCO
11:30 - 11:45	Mr. Fachry R. OEMAR, Deputy Director, Information System Planning, Indonesia National Single Window Agency
11:45 - 12:00	Dr. Seung Hyun CHA , General Manager, Consulting Team, Customs UNI-PASS International Agency
12:00 - 12:30	Q&A Session



14:00 - 15:30	PANEL DISCUSSION 5: WAY FORWARD: GLOBAL COLLABORATION ON ORIGIN INTERCONNECTIVITY Moderator:
	Ms. Gael GROOBY, Acting Director, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, WCO
14:00 - 14:15	Ms. Kelly MORGERO, Secretaria Especial da Receita Federal do Brasil
14:15 - 14:30	Mr. Nelson BRENS, President of the Asociación Americana de Profesionales de Aduana (ASAPRA)
14:30 - 14:45	Mr. Pedro GOMES ESTEVÃO, Principal Program Officer, Trade Facilitation, Directorate of Customs Administration, AfCFTA Secretariat
14:45 - 15:00	Mr. Stefano INAMA, Chief, Technical Assistance, Division on African and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
15:00 - 15:15	Ms. Mette AZZAM, Lead Origin Expert, EU-WCO RoO Africa Programme, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, WCO
15:15 - 15:45	Q&A Session
15:45 - 16:00	CLOSING REMARKS Ms. Gael GROOBY, Acting Director, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, WCO

WCO | Global Forum on Origin Interconnectivity | Programme







Day One Monday 3 February



OPENING REMARKS

Co-Moderators

Ms. Gael GROOBY

Acting Director, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, WCO

Ms Gael Grooby is the current Acting Director of Tariff and Trade Affairs (TTA) for the World Customs Organization (WCO). TTA is responsible for Nomenclature, Valuation and Origin matters at the WCO. Gael has spent over 30 years dedicated to Customs matters. Prior to the WCO, she spent 27 years working in Australia's Customs administration across a range of areas of Customs, including compliance, facilitation, and training, before focusing on trade. Becoming a specialist in classification, tariff policy and the Nomenclature, she served as a delegate at both the Harmonized System Review Sub-Committee and the Harmonized System Committee at the WCO prior to taking the position of Deputy Director, and in her time as a delegate she worked successfully to have proposals from Australia implemented into the HS. Coming in part way through the HS 2022 Review Cycle, she oversaw the final push to the approval of the HS 2022 Edition and then the roll out the new edition and its tools, under the challenging circumstances imposed by the pandemic. The Nomenclature team of TTA is working to support the Committees in the HS 2027 negotiations to update the HS in ways that are relevant to not only today's environment, but also to emerging needs. Gael has a passion for the Nomenclature, Valuation and Origin appreciating both their intellectual challenges and the positive impact they can have in the real world. For the HS, she has championed it in many forums HS since joining the WCO, stressing the need for understanding of the HS so that it can be effectively utilised to inform and support trade and policy.



OPENING REMARKS

Co-Moderators



Mr. Brendan O'HEARN

Acting Director, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, WCO

Mr. O'Hearn serves as the Acting Director of the Compliance and Facilitation Directorate at the World Customs Organization (WCO). In this role he leads the Procedures and Facilitation Sub-Directorate and directs the development, implementation and maintenance of international treaties, conventions, standards, guidelines and other trade facilitation and Customs procedure tools. Mr. O'Hearn provides counsel to the Director, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary General on matters relating to the Sub-Directorate. From July 2013 to November 2019, Mr. O'Hearn served as both the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Attaché and Department of Homeland Security Attaché in Tokyo, Japan. In these positions, he managed a broad range Homeland Security, Customs and Immigration issues. He was also responsible for providing advice and counsel to U.S. Ambassadors to Japan Caroline Kennedy and William Hagerty, as well as numerous Japanese lawmakers, on Homeland Security issues. Before his posting in Japan, Mr. O'Hearn served as the Director of International Organizations and Agreements within the Office of International Affairs at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). In this position he was responsible for international policy development for CBP. Mr. O'Hearn directed CBP's engagement in multilateral organizations (such as the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, APEC, INTERPOL and the G-7 etc.) and managed the negotiation of CBP's international cooperation and information sharing instruments. After serving for three years as the Vice Chair, Mr. O'Hearn served as the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Finance Committee Chair from 2012-2014 where he oversaw the development, execution and policy aspects of the organization's €16-million annual budget and approximately €12 million in voluntary contributions. In 2004 and 2005, Mr. O'Hearn led the CBP team that wrote and negotiated the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade. During the United States' APEC 2011 host year, he was Chair of the APEC Subcommittee on Customs Procedures, which actively pursued the establishment of Authorized Economic Operator Programs, Trade Resumption Protocols, Import Safety Operations and Single Window Development in the APEC region. Mr. O'Hearn started his public service career with the U.S. Customs Service in 1995 as an Import Specialist at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, He graduated from the School of International Studies at the University of the Pacific in California, did graduate work in Education at Dowling College in New York and is a graduate of the Senior Executive Fellows Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Massachusetts.





OPENING REMARKS

Speaker



Customs attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Kingdom of Belgium and European Union

Hyuncheol Im is an accomplished professional in customs operations, policy, and international cooperation. Currently serving as a Customs Attaché at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Belgium and the EU, he represents Korea at the World Customs Organization (WCO). His work focuses on strengthening trade security, combating illicit trade, and assisting Korean businesses with EU customs regulations.

Dr. Im has held pivotal roles within Korea Customs, including Director of Customs Border Surveillance, where he managed border security and counterterrorism measures in collaboration with international partners. As Head of Gimpo International Airport Customs, he directed airport customs operations and ensured efficient management during the COVID-19 pandemic. He has also successfully led initiatives in origin verification and cross-border security with organizations like the U.S. CBP and the UN Counter-Terrorism Office.

Fluent in English, Chinese, Indonesian, and Russian, Dr. Im earned his PhD from the University of Seoul, specializing in the EU Passenger Name Record (PNR) system. A published author on EU customs law, he has received recognition for his contributions to customs operations and fostering international collaboration.



OPENING REMARKS

Speaker



Ms. Isabel GARCIA CATALAN Head of Unit of DG TAXUD A6, European Commission

Isabel Garcia Catalan joined the European Commission in September 2003 and worked in DG TAXUD and DG TRADE on international files and rules of origin. She had previously worked as a teacher at the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne and at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, where she completed a PhD in Law. She has participated in the negotiations on rules of origin and customs cooperation and trade facilitation in most of EU free trade agreements. She worked as Deputy Head in the Unit responsible for International Coordination and EU Enlargement in DG TAXUD, dealing in particular with the EU-UK customs relations after Brexit, the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention on Rules of Origin. Since 16 June 2024, she heads the Unit in DG TAXUD responsible for Rules of Origin and Customs Valuation.



OPENING REMARKS

Speaker



Mr. Ricardo TREVIÑO CHAPA

Deputy Secretary General of the World Customs Organization (WCO)

Following a career in the Mexican Government, in 2015 Mr. Treviño was appointed by the Mexican Senate as General Administrator of Customs after being nominated by the President of Mexico. In January 2018, Ricardo Treviño Chapa assumed office as elected Deputy Secretary General of the WCO and was re-elected in 2022 by the WCO Council. During his tenure he has driven important change in the Organization through the development and implementation of the Strategic Plans 2019-2022 and 2022-2025. He is responsible for the implementation of the WCO Strategic Plan by overseeing and coordinating efforts made by the Organization's Directorates, particularly regarding the focus areas of Innovation and Technology, Green Customs and WCO Modernization. He is currently leading the process of drafting the Strategic Plan 2025- 2028 and he is actively contributing to the implementation of the WCO Modernization Plan, a process to reform WCO governance and accountability to adapt to current global realities and to emerging Customs needs.



SESSION 1

Moderator

Mr. Badr MOUHCINE

Head of EU-WCO Programmes HS and RoO Africa, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, WCO

Mr. Badr Mouhcine, is a Head of Programmes at the World Customs Organization leading the EU-WCO Programmes on the Harmonized System and Rules of Origin in Africa. Mr. Mouhcine has over 15 years of experience in the implementation of cooperation, dialogue and capacity building programmes in international organizations. Prior to joining the WCO, Mr. Mouhcine worked at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute supporting Arab Spring Countries in the Recovery of Illicit Assets and combatting money laundering and terrorism financing. He also held several positions at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development working on migration issues and as Communication Officer at the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus promoting social inclusion and the rights of disabled people. Mr. Mouhcine holds an Executive Masters in Communication and European affairs from Institut de Hautes Etude des Communications Sociales, A Masters in Global Management from the University of Antwerp Management School and a Bachelor on Communications from University Mohammed V in Rabat.



SESSION 1 Speaker



Chief Executive Officer, Global Trade Solution

As the founder and CEO of Global Trade Solution, Louise offers more than 25 years experience and leadership in International Trade, Logistics, Supply Chain, Customs and Information Technology

Along with an entrepreneurial, forward-thinking mindset and a demonstrated track record of accomplishments, she is passionate about innovation and transformation of the business processes within the Internation Trade environment, both from a Trade and Customs perspective.



SESSION 1 Speaker

Ms. Chansopheap OUK

Deputy Director of Department of International Customs Cooperation, General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia

Chansopheap OUK is currently serving as a Deputy Director of the International Customs Cooperation Department at the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia (GDCE). She has been with GDCE for over 14 years and has more than 9 years of specialized experience in the field of rules of origin. Her current responsibilities include negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) at the ASEAN, ASEAN-plus, and bilateral levels, verifying Certificates of Origin, and coordinating various ASEAN, multilateral, and bilateral meetings. She has recognized as a WCOaccredited expert on HS Classification since 2018 and in 2023, she has also selected as a Pre-accredited Expert on Rules of Origin.





Speaker



Ms. Aissata KOFFI YAMEOGO

Program Officer in charge of Rules of Origin and Management of Community Preferential Regime, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission

I am the Head of Division in charge of Tariff and Customs Procedures at the **ECOWAS** Commission.

With almost twenty (20) years of professional experience including 15 years at the Customs Union and Taxation Directorate of the ECOWAS Commission, I have actively contributed to the consolidation of the ECOWAS Free Trade Area, and improvement of intra-Community trade indices in the West African region. As part of my responsibility, I monitor and manage the Preferential tariff treatment christened ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) in our region. From the technical point of view, I am responsible for the implementation of ECOWAS rules of origin and ensuring conformity with Community protocols in intra-community trade within the ECOWAS market space and lately, I launched the electronic certificate of Origin in ECOWAS.

Lastly, as part of my responsibility, I oversee and monitor the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET), the ECOWAS automated Transit System (SIGMAT) and other Customs Procedures within our region.



SESSION 1 Speaker

Ms. Asmaa SAIDI

Office Manager, Rules of Origin Division, The Customs and Excise Administration of the Kingdom of Morocco

Titulaire d'un diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Appliquées en Relation Economiques Internationales, elle assure actuellement la fonction de Chef de bureau au sein du Service des Règles d'origine à l' Administration des Douanes et Impôts Indirects (ADII), Maroc. Avec 13 ans d'expérience à l'ADII, Asmaa SAIDI est chargée du suivi et de la gestion des règles d'origine applicables dans le cadre des accords conclus par le Maroc avec les pays de la zone pan euro-méditerranéenne (l'Union Européenne, l'AELE, la Turquie et les pays arabes signataires de l'accord d'Agadir).

Elle a représenté le Maroc lors des négociations internationales, notamment dans le cadre de la Zone de Libre-Échange Continentale Africaine (ZLECAf), et a contribué à la réalisation des chantiers de dématérialisation des processus douaniers en matière des règles d'origine. Elle a assisté dans plusieurs ateliers internationaux. Formatrice vacataire à l'Institut de formation douanière de l'ADII, en matière des règles d'origine depuis 2017, elle anime des formations au niveau national pour développer les compétences des cadres douaniers nationaux, des partenaires de l'administration et des douaniers des pays partenaires africains.





SESSION 2 Moderator



Ms. Sun Hwa CHO

Assistant Director, External Relations Division, Korea Customs Service (KCS)

Ms. Sun Hwa CHO joined Korea Customs Service in 2000. Her experience as a Customs enforcement expert paved her way to RILO AP in 2012-2013 and again in 2018-2019, where she contributed to the management of the Customs Enforcement Network (CEN).

Her collaboration with the WCO resulted in the successful implementation of WCO Operation CATalyst, which aimed at targeting New Psychoactive Substances. This was followed by a contribution to Operation CATalyst 2 in 2018.

Between 2020 and 2022, Ms. CHO engaged in FTA negotiations and collaborated with domestic and overseas agencies in the implementation of FTAs, including a role in the operation and development of cross-border e-CO data exchange system.

In 2023 and 2024, in recognition of her consistent contributions, Ms. CHO was elected as the chairperson of the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin. Currently, she continues her service by overseeing various WCO matters at the External Relations Division.



SESSION 2 Speaker



Mr. Nitas POLACHAI

Senior Officer, Digital Economy Division, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat

Nitas is a senior officer at the ASEAN Secretariat, serving as a focal point for ASEAN Digital Trade and the ASEAN Single Window. His key role is to influence digital economy policies and implement digital initiatives that would promote the cross-border digital trade within ASEAN and across the region.

With over 20 years of experience in digital transformation, Nitas has a proven track record of delivering large-scale digital initiatives for both public and private sectors. His achievements include the development of digital solutions for global oil logistics, and international trade facilitation platforms like the ASEAN Single Window. In addition to his technical expertise, Nitas is well-versed in digital trade policy development and has extensive experience negotiating trade and digital economy agreements.



SESSION 2 Speaker



Mr. Antonino DE LORENZO

Senior Expert, DG TAXUD, European Commission

Senior Expert at the European Commission DGTAXUD, Rules of Origin Unit, and former customs Director at the Italian Customs Agency, with almost 40 years of experience in customs and trade matters. From the WCO perspective, EU contributor to many initiatives namely the compilation of the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards as member of the WCO High Level Strategic Group. On rules of origin, the participation to the TCRO during the early stage of negotiations for the Harmonization Work Programme in parallel with the CRO of the WTO. On bilateral and regional relationships, EU lead negotiator on several free trade agreements on customs and trade facilitation concluded worldwide with third partners. As team leader of the Pan Euro Mediterranean Convention, today he oversees the smooth functioning of the diagonal cumulation system of the rules of origin in the euro-mediterranean area in a modernised digital environment of the supply chain.



SESSION 2 Speaker

Ms. Svetlana RAUDONEN

Policy Officer, DG TAXUD, European Commission

Dr Svetlana Raudonen is a policy officer of European Commission, in the Unit of B1 - Processes & data, customer relationship and planning of Digital Delivery of Customs and Taxation policy and a Business IT Project Manager of e-PoC project. Before joining DG TAXUD she served for 6 years in diplomatic mission being a customs policy counsellor representing Estonia in WCO and Council of European Union. She also chaired the Customs Union Working Party of the EU Council under Estonian presidency and fulfilled the role of Head of ETCIT, initiative on exploring of use EU-wide pooling of resources for developing future customs IT systems. She has 18 years of experience in customs and taxation, including implementation of EU Customs policies and Customs Control Procedures and Legislation, customs technologies, including implementation of Union Customs Code to ensure paperless and fully electronic customs environment. She received her PhD degree from the $\label{prop:constraint} Faculty of Economics in Tallinn University of Technology. A key focus of her research$ is on scientific evaluation of impact of public policy on foreign direct investments and she was guest lector at the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences and Tartu University.



SESSION 2 Speaker



Ms. Fiorella CAGNONE CLAVERO Chief of Valuation and Origin Division, Uruguay Customs

She is graduated in International Business and Integration, postgraduated with specialization in Business Management and Administration and she has a Master's degree in Business Administration; She has been working at the Uruguayan Customs since the year 2014 and she has been in charge of the Value and Origin Division since the year 2018.

Actually she teaches customs value at the Business University and at the School of Professional Training in Foreign Trade and Customs.

She also has taught courses and prepared workshops related to origin and she is a member of the negotiating group of origin regimes within the framework of the negotiation of international agreements of which Uruguay is party.



SESSION 2 Speaker



Ms. Nelisiwe NXUMALO

Manager of Origin, Eswatini Revenue Service (ERS)

Nelisiwe Nxumalo, Manager of Origin at the Eswatini Revenue Service (ERS), a semi-autonomous revenue agency, is responsible for overseeing all origin-related issues for over 70 registered exporters, ensuring that exported goods receive preferential treatment in destination countries. In addition to managing the origin unit, she ensures that concessions are awarded according to relevant legislation and to deserving traders.

Driven by her 10 years of experience in origin, Nelisiwe has been instrumental in furthering the ERS strategic theme, "To accelerate digitalisation of operations to ensure efficiencies in revenue collection and trade facilitation." She led the Eswatini team to become one of the first three countries to implement the electronic version of the certificate of origin for the SADC and COMESA Regions.

Her passion for marketing drives her to bring satisfaction to her clients by adopting global best practices that enhance the efficiency, security, and reliability of systems used in promoting trade facilitation.



Day Two Tuesday 4 February



SESSION 3

Moderator

Mr. Darlan F. MARTI

Trade policy Specialist, WTO Market Access Division - Secretary of the Committee on Rules of Origin (CRO) of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

Darlan F. MARTÍ is a counsellor at the Market Access Division of the WTO. He works on a variety of legal and economic issues related to market access for goods, such as tariffs, WTO Schedules of concessions, import licenses, prohibitions and other non-tariff barriers as well as trade facilitation. He has served as the Secretary of the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin since 2012 and has, in that capacity, been assisting WTO Members in their discussions related to rules of origin and origin requirements. He also been leading the team that conducts research and examines the linkages between rules of origin and the utilization of trade preferences. Darlan is a Brazilian national and was educated in the US, UK and France (Master of Laws, LL.M).

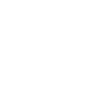


SESSION 3 Speaker

Mr. Sebastian AGUSTINO MACIAS

International Relations Officer, DG TAXUD, European Commission

Sebastian Agustino Macias is a trade and rules of origin expert of the European Commission. He has graduated in Business Administration and holds an MSc in European Studies at The London School of Economics, where he was inspired to pursue a career in international affairs at the European Commission. He has over 12 years' experience in international trade and customs matters. He has previously worked in DG TRADE, dealing with trade and sustainable development matters on the FTAs between the EU and Colombia/Peru/Ecuador; Vietnam and Moldova. Since 2018, he is working in DG TAXUD dealing with negotiations and implementation of preferential rules of origin in the Economic Partnership Agreements between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries; negotiations of preferential rules of origin of the EU-Philippines FTA and focal point for rules of origin EU-Africa.



Speaker





SESSION 3 Speaker

Mr. Martin VAN DER WEIDE

Policy Advisor on Origin at the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the ICC/World Chambers Federation International Certificate of Origin Council

Martin Van der Weide is Policy Advisor on Origin at the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the ICC/World Chambers Federation International Certificate of Origin Council.

In the Netherlands M van der Weide is responsible for the system of electronic Certificates of Origin. Each year the Netherlands Chambers of commerce is issuing more than 700.000 CO's both preferential and non-preferential. 100% of these CO's are applied online (e-CO's)

M. Van der Weide has served more than twenty five years in the Chamber network. He started his career at a regional Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands.

M. Van der Weide is also a member of the International CO Accreditation Committee. The Accreditation Chain affirms that chambers are mutually responsible and globally interconnected, assuring businesses, traders, banks and customs administrations that COs are issued in accordance with international best practices.

M. Van der Weide has studied agribusiness management.



SESSION 3 Speaker

Deputy section chief, Customs National Supervision Bureau for Duty Collection (Shanghai), General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC)

WU Chao has been serving as a Customs Officer since 2012, specializing in originrelated work since 2019. He has been actively involved in the implementation of the China-Switzerland Free Trade Agreement and the negotiation and implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). From 2020 to 2022, he contributed to the development of China Customs' Approved Exporter management system. Since 2022, he has participated in the development of the origin data exchange system. Currently, he is engaged in the WCO Feasibility Study on Interconnectivity Framework, leveraging his expertise to advance global customs collaboration and trade facilitation.



SESSION 3

Mr. Godsway Smile AGBEMENU

Chief Revenue Officer, Policy and Programs Department in charge of Design and Monitoring, and Customs House Agents Management

Certified Professional Statistician (PStat®) from the American Statistical Association (ASA).

Lead: Design and Implementation of the Integrated Customs Management System

Lead: Automation of the procedure for managing the Rule of Origin for Ghana's free trade agreements; i.e., the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA), European Partnership Agreement (iEPA), the United Kingdom Partnership Agreement (UKTPA), and the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme

Technical Manager, Ghana's Time Release Study, 2023

Technical Member, Ghana's International Trade Statistics Reports

I have been involved in designing and monitoring customs business procedures, processes, and systems for the efficient and effective administration and management of resources.

I also provide technical, analytical, and policy inputs to prepare the Customs Division and the Ghana Revenue Authority's (GRA) annual, medium, and long-term revenue projections.





SESSION 4 Moderator



Mr. Brendan O'HEARN

Acting Director, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, WCO

Mr. O'Hearn serves as the Acting Director of the Compliance and Facilitation Directorate at the World Customs Organization (WCO). In this role he leads the Procedures and Facilitation Sub-Directorate and directs the development, implementation and maintenance of international treaties, conventions, standards, guidelines and other trade facilitation and Customs procedure tools. Mr. O'Hearn provides counsel to the Director, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary General on matters relating to the Sub-Directorate. From July 2013 to November 2019, Mr. O'Hearn served as both the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Attaché and Department of Homeland Security Attaché in Tokyo, Japan. In these positions, he managed a broad range Homeland Security, Customs and Immigration issues. He was also responsible for providing advice and counsel to U.S. Ambassadors to Japan Caroline Kennedy and William Hagerty, as well as numerous Japanese lawmakers, on Homeland Security issues. Before his posting in Japan, Mr. O'Hearn served as the Director of International Organizations and Agreements within the Office of International Affairs at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). In this position he was responsible for international policy development for CBP, Mr. O'Hearn directed CBP's engagement in multilateral organizations (such as the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, APEC, INTERPOL and the G-7 etc.) and managed the negotiation of CBP's international cooperation and information sharing instruments. After serving for three years as the Vice Chair, Mr. O'Hearn served as the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Finance Committee Chair from 2012-2014 where he oversaw the development, execution and policy aspects of the organization's €16-million annual budget and approximately €12 million in voluntary contributions. In 2004 and 2005, Mr. O'Hearn led the CBP team that wrote and negotiated the WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade. During the United States' APEC 2011 host year, he was Chair of the APEC Subcommittee on Customs Procedures, which actively pursued the establishment of Authorized Economic Operator Programs, Trade Resumption Protocols, Import Safety Operations and Single Window Development in the APEC region. Mr. O'Hearn started his public service career with the U.S. Customs Service in 1995 as an Import Specialist at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. He graduated from the School of International Studies at the University of the Pacific in California, did graduate work in Education at Dowling College in New York and is a graduate of the Senior Executive Fellows Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Massachusetts.



SESSION 4

Speaker



Ms. Chunxiao XU Technical attaché, Origin Sub-Directorate, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, WCO

Chunxiao XU is currently serving as a Technical Attaché in the Origin Sub-Directorate, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, World Customs Organization (WCO). She has led the work on the WCO Study on the Digitization of the Certificate of Origin, WCO Study on Accumulation/Cumulation and is also responsible for the WCO Feasibility Study on the Interconnectivity Framework for the Certificate of

Prior to joining the WCO, she worked for the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) for more than 15 years. She has more than 10 years of experience in the field of rules of origin, contributing to policy and operational areas. She actively participated in the negotiation of several Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on Rules of Origin such as China-ASEAN, China-Singapore, China-Pakistan FTA, and has contributed and provided expertise in several Customs electronic projects such as certification, verification and CO data exchange systems.



SESSION 4

Speaker

Mr. Tejo KUSUMA

Policy Analyst at the Revenue and Strategic Planning Directorate, Directorate General Customs and Excise, Indonesia

Tejo was a Technical Officer at WCO, in the Sub directorate of Procedures and Facilitation working in the fields of Trade Facilitation and Digitalization, covering a number of portfolio e.g., WCO Data Model, Globally Networked Customs, Traveler Advance Data (API and BRI/PNR) and others.

He has more than 10 years of experience in Customs procedures and digital system, providing facilitation and reengineering of export and import processes, procedures and automated systems at the national and international levels in coordination with the public institutions and international organizations

Since January 2025, Tejo rejoined his Administration, Indonesian Customs as Policy Analyst at the Revenue and Strategic Planning, Directorate General Customs and Excise. He is responsible in developing business process map, digitalization as well as sustainable reform programme for his Administration.





SESSION 4 Speaker

Mr. Atsushi TANAKA Deputy Director, Office of Rules of Origin, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, JAPAN

Mr. Atsushi TANAKA is a Deputy Director of the Office of Rules of Origin, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance of Japan. His career spans more than 20 years in the Customs administration of Japan, where he has been involved in various areas of Customs work, including international Customs cooperation and trade agreement negotiations. He is a WCO-recognized expert on rules of origin and was posted to the WCO Secretariat in Brussels for 4 years from 2010 to 2014 as a Technical Attaché in the Origin Sub-Directorate where he led the drafting of the WCO Guidelines on Certification and Verification of Origin. Since returning to his home Customs administration in 2014, he has been part of the Japanese delegation to the negotiations of some major mega-FTAs, including the TPP, Japan-EU EPA, and RCEP, as well as overseeing the implementation of rules of origin in the existing FTAs/EPAs.



SESSION 4 Speaker

Mr. Donggeun KIM

Technical Attaché, Facilitation Sub-Directorate, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, WCO

Donggeun Kim has been serving as a Technical Attaché in the Procedures and Facilitation Sub-Directorate at the World Customs Organization (WCO) since December 2023. Mr. Kim focuses on Globally Networked Customs (GNC) and contributes to developing legal frameworks for secure and efficient cross-border Customs data exchange. His work addresses legal, operational, and technical challenges to enhance international trade facilitation. Prior to joining the WCO, he accumulated over 13 years of experience at the Korea Customs Service (KCS), where he held diverse roles. At KCS, Mr. Kim served as Legal Affairs Director, where he oversaw legal compliance and managed litigation. In FTA-related divisions, he was responsible for the implementation of the EU-Korea and China-Korea FTAs and origin verification procedures. He strengthened customs risk information exchange at the Customs Border Targeting Center and managed systems and regulatory frameworks in the Financial Investigation Division.



SESSION 4 Speaker

Mr. Fachry R. OEMAR Deputy Director, Information System Planning, Indonesia National Single Window Agency

Fachry has been cited as one of the rare experts of National Single Window (NSW) in Indonesia with over 13 years of experience in Indonesia Customs and Excise under the Ministry of Finance. His expertise spans system lifecycle management, IT operations, and business process optimization. He has held pivotal roles, including System Development Manager and System Architect Manager, before being promoted in 2022 to Deputy Director for Information System Planning at Indonesia National Single Window (INSW).

Fachry has led transformative projects such as the Maritime Single Window, National Logistics Ecosystem, and Indonesia Single Risk Management, significantly enhancing trade facilitation and interagency collaboration. He has successfully integrated INSW with over 15 government agencies and various private sector platforms.

Internationally, Fachry represents Indonesia in ASEAN Single Window technical working groups, driving regional e-Government initiatives. He holds a Master's in Information Systems Management from Carnegie Mellon University and certifications in ITIL v.3, Service-Oriented Architecture, and IT project management.



SESSION 4 Speaker

Dr. Seung Hyun CHA

General Manager, Consulting Team, Customs UNI-PASS International Agency

Seung Hyun Cha is a General Manager in the Consulting Division of Customs UNI-PASS International Agency (CUPIA) in the Republic of Korea. Since 2008, He has held range of positions within his proficiency of customs automation and trade facilitation that required him to be posted internationally in more than thirty locations including: Algeria, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania and Ecuador. Recently he had been the Project Manager for a Feasibility study on eCO exchange between the ASEAN and the Republic of Korea.







SESSION 5 Moderator



Acting Director, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, WCO

Ms Gael Grooby is the current Acting Director of Tariff and Trade Affairs (TTA) for the World Customs Organization (WCO). TTA is responsible for Nomenclature, Valuation and Origin matters at the WCO. Gael has spent over 30 years dedicated to Customs matters. Prior to the WCO, she spent 27 years working in Australia's Customs administration across a range of areas of Customs, including compliance, facilitation, and training, before focusing on trade. Becoming a specialist in classification, tariff policy and the Nomenclature, she served as a delegate at both the Harmonized System Review Sub-Committee and the Harmonized System Committee at the WCO prior to taking the position of Deputy Director, and in her time as a delegate she worked successfully to have proposals from Australia implemented into the HS. Coming in part way through the HS 2022 Review Cycle, she oversaw the final push to the approval of the HS 2022 Edition and then the roll out the new edition and its tools, under the challenging circumstances imposed by the pandemic. The Nomenclature team of TTA is working to support the Committees in the HS 2027 negotiations to update the HS in ways that are relevant to not only today's environment, but also to emerging needs. Gael has a passion for the Nomenclature, Valuation and Origin appreciating both their intellectual challenges and the positive impact they can have in the real world. For the HS, she has championed it in many forums HS since joining the WCO, stressing the need for understanding of the HS so that it can be effectively utilised to inform and support trade and policy.



SESSION 5 Speaker

Ms. Kelly MORGERO

Secretaria Especial da Receita Federal do Brasil

Kelly Morgero holds a Master's degree from the University of São Paulo (Brazil) and a second Master's in Financial and Tax Administration from the Institute of Fiscal Studies, Spain. She also holds a Postgraduate degree in Customs Law and International Trade from the Catholic University of Brasília. Since 2009, Kelly has been working at the Special Secretariat of the Federal Revenue of Brazil (RFB), focusing on areas such as the origin of goods, customs valuation, and Authorized Economic Operators. Kelly represents Brazil Customs on the Mercosur Committee for Rules of Origin and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP). She currently holds the position of Vice-Chair of the WCO Technical Committee on Customs Valuation.



SESSION 5

Speaker

Mr. Nelson BRENS

President of the Asociación Americana de Profesionales de Aduana

Nelson Brens holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago (UTESA) and a Master's degree in Senior Management with a concentration in Finance from the Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC). He is a Certified Public Accountant (Decree 167-93) and a Certified Customs Broker (Resolution 402-97). Brens served as President of the Dominican Association of Customs Brokers (ADAA) from 2016 to 2018. Currently, he serves as President of the International Association of Professional Customs Brokers (ASAPRA) for the 2022-2025 term, leading efforts focused on institutional strengthening, international cooperation, and the development of strategic initiatives for the profession.



SESSION 5 Speaker

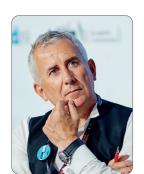
Mr. Pedro GOMES ESTEVÃO

Principal Program Officer, Trade Facilitation, **Directorate of Customs Administration, AfCFTA Secretariat**

Pedro Gomes Estêvão is a distinguished professional with over 18 years of experience in trade facilitation, regional integration, and international trade policy. Currently $serving \, as \, the \, Principal Program \, Officer, Trade \, Facilitation \, at \, the \, AfCFTA \, Secretariat$ since 2022, he plays a crucial role in harmonizing customs procedures and advancing trade facilitation initiatives across the Africancontinent. Prior to this, Pedro held key positions, including Senior TradeAdviser on the Trade Facilitation Program for the GIZ-supported ECOWAS Commission, and Director of Industry at the Ministry ofIndustry and Trade of Cape Verde. He has been instrumental inadvancing trade liberalization initiatives such as the ECOWASTrade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) and has contributed to the development of e-certification systems and regional tradeagreements.Pedro holds a Master's in African Regional Integration and aDegree in International Trade. He is multilingual, fluent inPortuguese, French and English. His technical expertise andleadership continue to shape Africa's trade policies, fosteringdeeper integration and economic growth.







SESSION 5 Speaker



Chief, Technical Assistance, Division on African and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

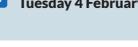
Mr Stefano Inama is Chief of the Regional Advisory programme of Technical Assistance in the Division on African and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), UNCTAD Geneva, Switzerland. Mr. Inama possess over 30 years of experience on trade and customs issues matured advising Governments and private sector. He has designed and managed research and trade-related capacity building programs in Asia, Africa and Latin America, with a focus on trade laws and policy, regulatory and institutional trade issues with a specialization on rules of origin and market access. He has written extensively on these subjects as well as on related industrial policy questions. He is the author of one of the most comprehensive analytical books on rules of origin (Rules of origin in International Trade, Cambridge University Press, first edition 2009, second edition 2022) and has co-authored ASEAN rules of origin: a way forward and The foundations of the ASEAN Economic Community, Cambridge University Press 2015. Lately he has been editor of e-book "Rules of origin: Firms perspectives, lessons learned, and ways forward"available at https://cadmus. eui.eu/handle/1814/76084. Mr Inama holds Masters and LLM degrees from the University of Bologna and College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium. He is visiting fellow at the European University Institute and has been member of the ASEAN integration through law at Center of International Law of Singapore and a Visiting Lecturer at the Columbia University, the World Trade Institute, Master in International Law and Economics, M.I.L.E. and at IELPO International Economic law and Policy.



SESSION 5 Speaker

Ms. Mette AZZAM Lead Origin Expert, EU-WCO RoO Africa Programme, Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate, WCO

METTE AZZAM holds a position as Lead Origin Expert in the EU-WCO Rules of Origin for Africa Programme, which is an initiative funded by the European Union and implemented by the World Customs Organization to support the African continent to improve its capacity to deal with Rules of Origin and ultimately to support the harmonised and coordinated implementation and application of the Rules of Origin under Annex 2 of the AfCFTA in compliance with other international commitments and best practices. She has worked as Head of the Origin Sub-Directorate at the WCO for 10 years, as responsible for technical assistance to WCO Members in the area of Origin as well as for the technical part of the WTO negotiations in the Harmonization of Non-Preferential Rules of Origin within the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (TCRO) under the auspices of the WCO. She was the WCO liaison officer in the meetings of the WTO Committee on Rules of Origin (CRO) in Geneva. Mette graduated from the Danish Customs and Tax College in 2000 and has been working in the Danish Customs Administration until February 2008 where she was posted in Brussels as Danish Customs Attaché. From December 2005 to January 2008 she was responsible for origin matters at the Customs Headquarter in Copenhagen, Denmark



CLOSING REMARKS



Ms. Gael GROOBY

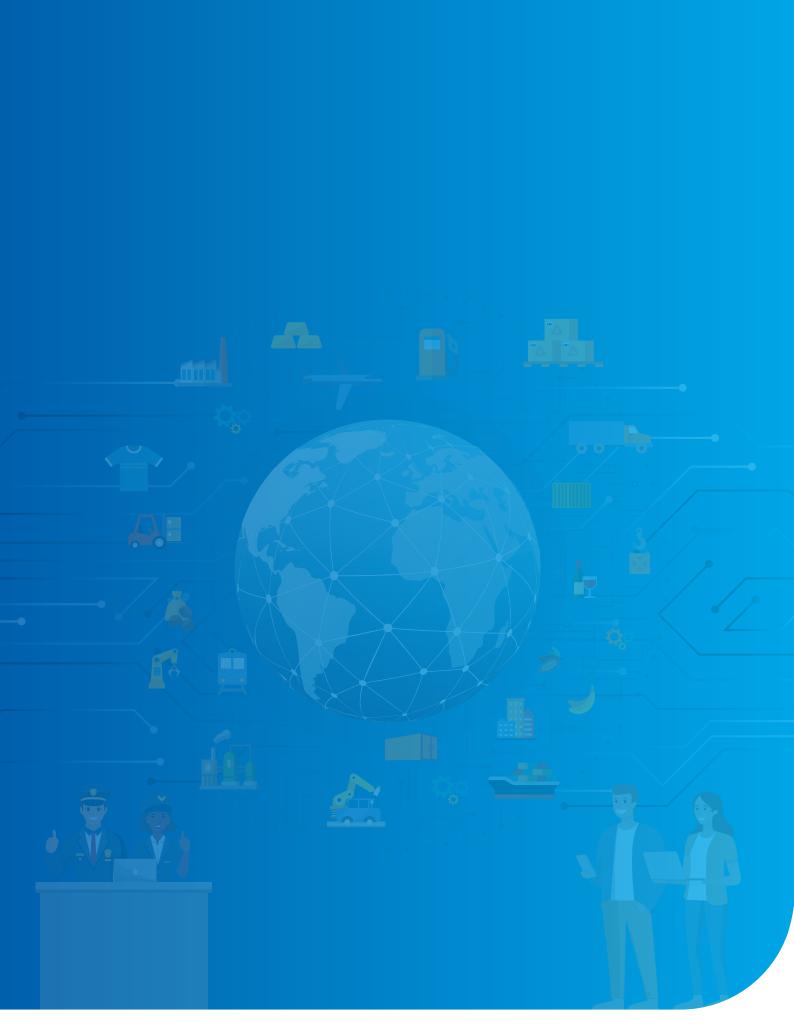
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WCO STUDY English French **English** French Study on the Digitalization of the Certificate of Origin WCO Data Model Coordinated Border Management Compendium **WCO TOOLS** Interconnectivity Framework for Certificates of Origin Single Window (Interim Report- Phase 1) Globally Networked Customs (GNC) WCO Data Model App





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