Global Forum on Origin Interconnectivity 2025

Facilitating Trade with Origin Interconnectivity: From Framework to Implementation



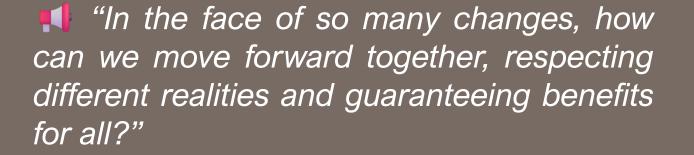
Interconnectivity of the Origin and Customs Digitalization : A Road to the Global Harmonization

Interconnectivity Forum of the Origin 2025 – WCO WCO Headquarters, Brussels Presented by: Nelson Brens, President of ASAPRA



International Trade Is Evolving

- Global trade is constantly changing, driven by the digitalization and new technologies.
- More than 60% of global companies consider that the extension digital access will be one of the most impactful factors for the future of business until 2030.
- However, we still face challenges: lack of harmonization regulatory, operational barriers and technological differences between public and private actors.







The Evolution of Customs Practices

WCO SAFE Framework \rightarrow A key reference for ensuring the security and facilitation of global trade.

- AFC Plus (WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement) → Expand the commitment with the simplification and digitalization of processes.
- Interconnectivity of the Origin + One-Stop Shops \rightarrow An initiative that can contribute to greater predictability and efficiency in international trade .

📌 Digitalization It is already underway :

- ✓ 22 countries have implemented digital source data exchange programs.
- ✓ Nine other countries have started trials for full digitalisation.
- "How can we ensure that these advances are accessible, sustainable and effective for all?"





Opportunities and Challenges

★ Some observed advances include:

Digital certificates of origin reduce costs, time and improvement the security and traceability of the operations.

✓ Customs Single Windows can simplify processes and improve regulatory compliance

But there is still challenges to face:

- X Lack of global harmonization remains a barrier to interoperability between systems.
- The Uneven technological infrastructures hinder the adoption of the digitalization in some countries.
- X Training and adaptation from the private sector are essential for these changes to be effective.



"How can we share experiences and best practices so that these innovations benefit everyone?"





























































The Role of ASAPRA and the **Importance of Training**

- ASAPRA represents professional customs agents, being a private sector organization that acts as a bridge between companies and customs administrations.
- Our goal is to contribute to the harmonization regulatory, respecting the needs and particularities of each country.

Areas in where ASAPRA can add value:

- ✓ Promotion of the training and dissemination of knowledge , allowing private operators to adopt new technologies safely and efficiently.
- ✓ Facilitation of dialogue between companies and customs , ensuring that the digitalization sea an inclusive and accessible process.
- ✓ Support in the development of tools interoperable that allow greater predictability in international trade.



Training is a key factor:

- According to the World Economic Forum, 69 % of the Global employers see lack of digital skills as an obstacle to digital transformation.
- and 85 % of companies plan invest in the requalification of its teams to adapt to the new technologies

"Modernization of trade cannot happen without training and cooperation. We are ready to join forces on this path."





How Can We Move Forward Together?

- Four essential elements for the success of the interconnectivity of the origin:
- ightharpoonup Harmonization global regulatory ightharpoonup Alignment of standards to ensure interoperability .
- ightharpoonup Development of digital infrastructures ightharpoonup Ensure access to technologies in the different markets.
- ightharpoonup Training of the private, public and customs sectors ightharpoonup Continuous training through the academy for the adaptation to the digitalization .
- Strengthening digital security → Data protection and fraud



"How can we work together to overcome these challenges and ensure that no one is left behind?"



Conclusions

- Digitalization and the interconnectivity of the origin represent a step forward for international trade, but its success depends on collaboration between the public and private sectors.
- ✓ Customs Single Windows can serve as a point of convergence to ensure security and efficiency in the exchange of certificates of origin .
- ASAPRA believes that dialogue between companies and customs administrations is essential for this transition to occur harmoniously.



"International trade has always evolved through dialogue and cooperation. Today, we have the opportunity to give a new step, taking advantage technology to build a more efficient and transparent future for all. We are available to contribute in this process."







Thanks you for your attention!



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