

The 12th Meeting of ASEM Working Group on Customs Matter
Draft Summary

1. The 12th Meeting of ASEM Working Group on Customs Matter was held on May 24 to 25, 2018 in Chengdu, China. Participants from Austria, Bangladesh, China, Denmark, EU, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Malaysia, Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, and Vietnam attended the Meeting. Mr. XU Jun, who is in charge of multilateral cooperation and from Department of International Cooperation, General Administration of China Customs, chaired the Meeting.

2. Item One: Opening ceremony

Mr. WANG Wenxi, Director General of Chengdu Customs District of China welcomed the attendance of all participants, and wished the Meeting a success. Ms. HU Lan, Deputy Director General of Department of International Cooperation, General Administration of China Customs delivered an opening address, emphasizing the importance of ASEM Customs Priority Actions for the promotion of Connectivity, and expected that ASEM Customs could enlarge cooperation in some areas among those Actions, such as Single Window, to better serve the growth of ASEM economy and trade.

3. Item Two: Business arrangements

The Chair briefed on the business arrangements of the Meeting.

4. Item Three: Adoption of the agenda

Participants adopted the agenda of the Meeting.

5. Item Four: Reports on recent ASEM Meetings

(1) Germany briefly introduced outcomes achieved by the 12th ASEM Customs Directors General/Commissioners Meeting held in October 2017 in Berlin and eight Priority Actions of ASEM Customs in the year of 2018-2019 that were identified by the Meeting.

(2) China reported on the outcomes of the 9th ASEM Customs-Trade Day held on May 23, 2018 in Chengdu, China. Around 100 participants from ASEM Member Customs and Business attended the event which was themed “Promotion of Connectivity of customs and business hand in hand”. Participants exchanged practices and views surrounding connectivity cooperation, cross-border E-commerce, AEO and mutual recognition, and single window and trade facilitation, and unanimously agreed that Customs and Business would work together to enhance connectivity between Europe and Asia.

6. Item Five: Reports on ASEM Action Plan 2018-2019 by coordinators

(1) Action One: Trade facilitation and customs procedures

The Meeting agreed that EU, in close cooperation with Korea, Spain and China, will circulate the Action Plan to other Members.

(2) Action Two: Facilitating paperless customs processes

The Meeting agreed with the Action Plan which was presented by India on behalf of coordinators.

(3) Action Three: Customs management of cross-border E-commerce

The Meeting agreed with the Action Plan which China, Korea and Poland jointly presented. The Action will be conducted by means of survey, which will cover both aspects of security and facilitation, and welcome Members’ provision of case study. China volunteered to share its practices in this regard.

(4) Action Four: Connectivity – Transit

The Meeting agreed with the Action Plan which China, Austria and Germany jointly presented.

(5) Action Five: Single windows for speedy clearance, automation & integrated risk management

All participants reached consensus on the Action Plan which India introduced on behalf of coordinators. As highlighted by the coordinators and discussed by Members, the Meeting agreed that currently Action “Single Window” should be the top priority for future customs cooperation. In order to enhance political will, government involvement and visibility of ASEM Customs community on the cooperation of Single Window, the Meeting also agreed to promote customs’ engagement with the ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity.

(6) Action Six: JCO on fast-moving consumer goods

The Meeting agreed with the Action Plan which OLAF presented. OLAF also provided additional information in response to some Members’ queries.

(7) Action Seven: Border enforcement related to international postal items

The Meeting agreed with the Action Plan which Japan and France presented. The two coordinators also answered the questions raised by some Members .

(8) Action Eight: Visibility of ASEM aspects

The Meeting agreed with the Action Plan which Austria presented on behalf of coordinators. Austria called for more engagement of other Members in the Action.

7. Item Six: Updates on latest development by Members

(1) China briefed on the latest developments and priorities in customs innovation and reform.

(2) EU updated the new development in customs legislation.

8. Item Seven: Future meetings

(1) Spain informed that the date and venue of the 13th AWC Meeting in 2019 will be announced in due course.

(2) Vietnam informed that during the 13th AWC Meeting in 2019, the date and venue of the 13th ASEM Customs Directors-General/Commissioners' Meeting in 2019 will be announced.

9. Item Eight: Other business

(1) Coordination mechanism among ASEM Asian Members.

On the basis of consensus reached by Asian Members' meeting on their coordination mechanism, the Chair invited China to collect more information about practices of coordination mechanism in high level ASEM bodies in pursuit of a better approach among ASEM Asian Customs Members.

10. Adoption of the Summary

The Meeting endorsed the Summary.

11. Closing

Ms. HU Lan gave the closing remarks.