

# **Wise Persons Group on Challenges faced by Customs Minutes of the 6th meeting**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**Venue: Conference Centre Albert Borschette 36, rue Froissart, 1049 Brussels**

Participants: 12 members of the Wise Persons Groups were present in person or via online connection on both days. Secretarial support to the Wise Persons Group was provided by DG TAXUD.

Invited experts are listed in Annex 1.

## **1. Approval of the agenda and the minutes of the fifth meeting**

The members approved the minutes of the fifth meeting and the agenda of the sixth meeting.

## **2. International Customs**

The members of the Group have invited Singapore Customs to present their initiatives on modernisation and digitalisation. Singapore Customs presented their Single Window, TradeNet, established in 1989 and which provides a single platform with a single electronic declaration for Singapore's trade and logistics community to fulfil all import, export and transshipment related regulatory requirements. As part of the transformation experience, Singapore Customs shared on its integrated Self Service Payment Kiosks system to automate and support the collection of Duty, Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Composition Sums via cashless means, and its "Networked Trade Platform", which allows for digital connectivity between the actors of trade and Customs. The discussion also touched on the need to build cross-border digital connectivity, such as system-to-system interoperability with other countries. Singapore Customs also presented their Data Analytics System (DAS), which provides enhanced insights into trade cargo movements and translate these insights into timely and actionable interventions via additional cargo checks as well as the use of artificial intelligence to augment analysis of cargo x-ray images. Next, Singapore Customs introduced the "Overseas Vendor Registration (OVR) Regime". GST on low-value goods (not exceeding S\$400) will be collected by GST-registered OVR Vendors at the point of sale from 2023 onwards. Finally, the discussion addressed the need to develop agile staff and build up their technological capabilities to improve productivity.

## **3. Preparation of the report**

The Group discussed the preparation of the report and the recommendations.

## **4. Close and next steps**

The Chair thanked the Members for their active participation and the Secretariat for the organisation and logistics of the meeting. The next meeting will be in March.

**Annex 1: List of invited experts (invited associations)**

Singapore Customs