

# **Articles of International Association Customs Platform**

## **Title 1. Name, registered office, purpose, duration**

### Article 1

An International Association is being founded by the name "Customs Platform".

The secretariat will be located at the following address:

Prinses Stefanieplein, 15- Bus 1.2  
8400 Oostende

### Article 2

The purpose of this association will consist of the following activities:

1. Anticipating to future customs legislation and elaborating on its practical modes of application.
2. Developing working committees around various themes that arise in day-to-day customs practices.
3. In situations in which this is needed, the Customs Platform will function as a medium towards other international organisations and governmental instances.

### Article 3

This association is being established for an unlimited term of operation.

## **Title II. Membership and accession of future new members**

### Article 4

§ 1. Membership will be allowed after acceptance of the statutes .

§ 2. The ongoing work of the Steering Committee of the Customs Platform consist of:

- \* preparation of meetings;
- \* setting the agenda;
- \* to the extent possible, the provisioning of meeting rooms;
- \* sending invitations for meetings;
- \* registration of presence or absence of platform participants
- \* providing practical information on meetings;
- \* organizing practical aspects meetings;

- \* drawing up reports;
- \* sending reports.

§ 3. Members of the Customs Platform are international companies and professional associations.

### **Title III. Management and operation of the International Association**

#### Article 5

The Customs Platform consists of a Steering Committee and one or more working committees.

#### Article 6

The Secretariat of the Customs Platform is fulfilled by the organization of Mr Pirron Freddy. The secretariat ensures the administrative coordination of the Customs platform and the preparation of the Newsletters for the Members of the Customs Platform.

#### Article 7

Mode of operation of the Steering Committee of the Customs Platform :

The Steering Committee of the Customs Platform , in principle, meets 8 times a year. The Steering Committee is coordinated by the President of the customs Platform Mr F. Pirron . The Steering Committee determines which working committees need to be set up. The action plan of a working committee needs to be approved by the Steering Committee in advance.

#### Article 8

Mode of operation of the working committees within the Customs Platform:

Each working committee works through a Director who acts as spokesman for the working committee. Each work committee composes a 'position paper' over the treated subject. Prior to the distribution of this document in any form whatsoever should the document be approved by the members of the working committee. All members of the working committee will get the opportunity to hand over their comments and modifications in advance. It needs to be taken into account that these 'position papers' cannot be too detailed because of the representation of different sectors within the Customs Platform and should serve the general interest of the whole Customs Platform.

Each working committee reports to the Steering Committee within the Customs Platform as follows:

- The 'position papers' will be sent to the Steering Committee after approval by the working committee
- Every working committee sends a copy of the minutes of each meeting to the Steering Committee.

A copy of the finally approved 'position papers' and of the minutes of the meetings of the working

committees is sent to all members by the President of the Customs Platform.

#### Article 9

Means of operation:

If the steering committee judges that budget needs to be freed for a specific project, be this after a working committee's proposition or not, every Member of the Customs Platform will decide autonomously upon its participation to this project.

Should a specific product, of whichever type, result from such a project, separate arrangements regarding the personal and legal rights linked to this product will be made between the Members participating to the project in advance. Such arrangements will be drafted in written format and could describe (but are not limited to) regulations concerning the (intellectual) property right.

#### Article 10

Communication/external representation:

§1. The content of any which communication to third parties will be decided upon within the steering committee of the Customs Platform in advance, as well as which members will receive the task of executing these communications.

§2. In external communications of the Customs Platform, the steering committee or the working committees, no reference can be made to the individual Members of the Customs Platform, unless explicitly and in writing agreed otherwise with the Member (s) of the Customs Platform involved.

§3. The President of the Customs Platform will decide who can represent the Customs Platform externally.

### **Title IV. Membership and admission of future members**

#### Article 11

§1. All decisions in working committees or in the steering committee of the Customs Platform will be taken upon regular majority of votes, unless stipulated otherwise in these articles of International Association.

§2. Every member of the Customs Platform is admitted 1 vote.

**Title V. Confidentiality Clause**

**Article 12**

Confidentiality clause

The Members of the Customs Platform are kept to strict secrecy of financial, commercial, technical, strategic or whichever information spread by the Members of the Customs Platform on meetings of the working committees , the steering committee or on any other meeting organized in context of the association Customs Platform , except when the Member(s) of the Customs Platform spreading the information have provided explicit permission in writing and in those cases where communication of confidential information is legally obliged or is imposed by court of justice or by the government. The Members of the Customs Platform are kept to guarantee the confidentiality of this financial, commercial, technical, strategic or whichever information on the part of their employees, subcontractors, representatives, authorized representatives or whoever that could have access to the confidential information. The commitment to this confidentiality clause remains valid after the resignation as Member of the association Customs Platform.

**Title VI. Final phrase**

**Article 15**

Anything which has not been clearly stipulated in these articles can be decided upon through voting by the association Customs Platform with regular majority of votes.

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