

ASEM (Asia-Europe) Customs
Director - Generals / Commissioners Meeting
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Communiqué
(extract)

trade and maritime transport of the recent U.S. legislation to require 100% scanning of US-bound containers at foreign ports. In this regard, ASEM Customs agreed that it would be useful to exchange views among Members and with the U.S. on the best policies to ensure both security and smooth trade flows.

Customs' Contribution to the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

- Proliferation of counterfeit goods not only threatens the health, safety and security of consumers, but also hinders innovation and sustained growth of the global economy. To counter this issue, it is important to give this a higher priority and to develop human resources in Customs, in particular experienced IPR experts.

- Recognizing the significance of this issue, ASEM Customs
 - welcomed regional cooperation in IPR enforcement, and agreed to strengthen such regional cooperation among ASEM Customs. Members noted the example reported by Japan, China, and Korea for such purpose, in which the three Customs established a Tripartite Working Group and adopted an Action Plan including promotion of information exchange.
 - noted progress with the EU Action Plan on tackling IPR fraud, the conclusions of the German G8 Presidency at Heiligendamm, and preparations by Japanese and French Customs to make tackling counterfeiting a priority of the Japanese G8 Presidency and the French Presidency of the EU in 2008.
 - agreed to participate in the discussion for the formal adoption of WCO's *SECURE that promotes sharing of best practices in IPR enforcement, and to contribute to its capacity building activities.
 - noted the proposal for a new international framework to strengthen IPR enforcement, "ACTA (Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement)", and expressed hope that discussions might be accelerated for its materialization.
 - agreed to support the Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy convened by the WCO, Interpol and WIPO for February 2008.