Understanding the size and shape of illicit trade

UNCTAD Illicit Trade Forum
Geneva (Palais des Nations), 3 – 4 February 2020

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD
A multilateral perspective from the WCO

How is state of play and what challenges for Customs to face?
Based on Members voluntary CEN data input.

Six areas of Enforcement – Cultural Heritage; Drugs; Environment; IPR, Health & Safety; Revenue; Security.

Drugs, Environment and IPR show *mail* as one of the top three conveyance method for smuggling.

For Drugs (NPS) and IPR seizures, *mail* is the top conveyance method:

- NPS seizures discovered in mail in 2017 represented over 55% of the total number of seizures.
- IPR seizures by mail represented over 50% of the total number of seizures in 2016 and 2017.
- In 2018, this number increased to over 70% of the total number of seizures.
Global commodity trends – a draft picture

- Drugs
- Environment
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Excise goods
- Cultural Heritage
Global and regional operational challenges – make your choice

➢ Global / interregional consensus on priority areas
➢ New or changing geo-economic routings
➢ New and disruptive technologies – intangible goods
➢ Risk management tools and technologies
➢ International cooperation and data / intelligence sharing
The global e-commerce – Customs business and challenge

➢ Volume and speed of small consignments
➢ All kinds of commodities – all kinds of risks
➢ Lack of pre arrival data
➢ The Revenue challenge
➢ The IPR challenge
➢ The NPS challenge
The WCO response

➢ Fighting illicit trade and protection of society are priority strategic goals of WCO

➢ Annual implementation plan and comprehensive CEP

➢ WCO Tools and Instruments

➢ Monitoring through WCO Member’s and donors
The WCO operational activities

➢ The WCO COLIBRI Project – Cocaine
➢ The WCO LYNX Project - Tobacco
➢ The INAMA and ICCWC Project - IWT
➢ The WCO Plastic Waste Project
➢ The WCO new IPR Programme
➢ The WCO TENTACLE Project – TBML
➢ The WCO Global Shield - IED Precursor
The WCO operational activities

...and so much more....
Thank you!

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