WCO initiatives to mitigate illicit trade through maritime transport

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD
General information:

• WCO represents 184 Member Customs administrations, handling 98% of the global trade.

• Customs is the ‘first line of defense’ against cross-border movements of illicit cargo.

• WCO’s Enforcement and Compliance sub-directorate coordinates numerous initiatives on strategical, tactical and operational level to address illicit trade using all means of transport.
UNODC – WCO Container Control Programme (CCP)

• Established in 2004 by WCO and UNODC to set up dedicated Port Control Units targeting illicit trade in maritime transport
• Promotion of multi-agency composition of these units.
• Long-term cooperation with partner countries, using a staged and structured training concept.
• WCO provides training on risk analysis, targeting and control, specialized topics (drugs, CITES, IPR, waste, tobacco, evidence handling etc.).
• WCO provides secure infrastructure for global port-to-port communication among Port Control Units and non-CCP ports.
UNODC – WCO Container Control Programme (CCP) - continued

• Statistics (for 2021):
  - More than 100 Port Control Units in 73 countries established
  - More than 350 CCP training activities implemented in 2021
  - More than 6,800 training participants in 2021

• Examples of Seizures (in 2021):
  - 1,416 seizures in total
  - 171 tons of cocaine / 2.2 tons of heroin
  - 400 mio. cigarettes / 10 tons of illicit alcohol
  - 9 mio. items infringing IPR
  - 13 shipments of falsified medical products
  - numerous other seizures (strategic goods, waste, cash, cultural heritage items, timber, precursor chemicals etc.)
Other WCO initiatives to mitigate illicit trade through maritime transport:

• **Intensifying cooperation with transport sector**, in particular shipping lines (joint training, cooperation on identified target shipments, smart container alerts).

• **WCO Cargo Targeting System** – electronic ‘filter’ system to identify potentially suspicious shipments, based on manifest and bill of lading data (pre-arrival, pre-departure, transshipment information)

• **WCO Risk Management Compendium** – information on establishing risk management infrastructure in Customs, including risk indicators

• **WCO nCEN** - national database on identified infringements of Customs legislation (including offenders and suspects)
Other WCO initiatives to mitigate illicit trade through maritime transport:

• **Targeted regional and Global Operations:**
  - 'STOP' on falsified medicines, medical supplies (masks etc.) in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
  - 'DEMETER' on CITES / timber;
  - 'THUNDER' on illicit / hazardous waste
  - various other operations (drugs, cultural heritage etc.).

• **Other projects:**
  - 'TRENDSPOTTER' to identify new patterns and developments in Commercial Fraud;
  - 'EXCISE NET' to facilitate exchange of information and intelligence on cross-border excise fraud.
Thank you for your attention!

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