WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

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 Commerical Fraud;
  - **,EXCISE NET'** to facilitate exchange of information and intelligence on cross-border excise fraud.

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Thank you for your attention !

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