



WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES DOUANES

Established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council  
Créée en 1952 sous le nom de Conseil de coopération douanière

The Secretary General

07.SL-0228E

Embassy of the Slovak Republic,  
Avenue Molière, 195,  
1050 BRUXELLES.

Brussels, 3 September 2007.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that at its 109<sup>th</sup>/110<sup>th</sup> Sessions, held in June of this year, the Council adopted a Recommendation concerning the amendment of the Convention establishing the Customs Co-operation Council.<sup>102</sup> That Recommendation, a copy of which is enclosed, concerns the amendment of two Articles of the Convention (Articles VIII and XVIII) in order to enable Customs or Economic Unions to become Contracting Parties to the Convention and, thereby, to become Members of the Organization.

The procedure for amending the Convention is contained in Article XX thereof, a copy of which is also enclosed. Under the terms of paragraph (a) of that Article, the Council may recommend amendments to the Convention to the Contracting Parties. As Your Government is a Contracting Party to the Convention, I should be grateful if Your Excellency would convey to Your Government the enclosed Recommendation concerning the amendment of the Convention.

If Your Government accepts the amendments recommended therein, it is respectfully requested to notify the depositary of the Convention, in writing, of its acceptance, as provided for in paragraph (b) of Article XX. Notifications should be conveyed, through diplomatic channels, to the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Service public fédéral, Affaires étrangères, Commerce extérieur et Coopération au développement, 15, rue des Petits Carmes, B-1000 Brussels. There is no compulsory layout or content for the written notification, but I enclose a specimen Notice of Acceptance which may prove helpful to Your Government.

Under the terms of paragraph (c) of Article XX, the amendments will not come into force until three months after the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received notification of acceptance from all of the Contracting Parties to the Convention. Therefore, I respectfully request that Your Government make every effort to expedite its consideration of this matter.

.../...

<sup>102</sup> Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is the official name of the World Customs Organization.

.../...

Any questions regarding the recommended amendments to the Convention, or the procedure for accepting them, should be addressed to Mr. Alan Harrison, Executive Officer, Office of the Secretary General, World Customs Organization, 30, rue du Marché, B-1210, Brussels. Tel. : 32 2 209 94 10, Fax : 32 2 209 92 92, email:[Alan.harrison@wcoomd.org](mailto:Alan.harrison@wcoomd.org)

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danet", is written over a horizontal line that has been underlined with a second line below it.

Michel Danet.

- Annex 1 : Recommendation of the Customs Co-operation Council concerning the amendment of the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council
- Annex 2 : Article XX of the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council
- Annex 3 : Specimen Notice of Acceptance of the recommended amendments to the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>**  
**CONCERNING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CONVENTION ESTABLISHING**  
**A CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL**

(30 June 2007)

THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL,

RECOGNIZING the increasingly significant role played by Customs or Economic Unions in world affairs, and particularly in matters pertaining to trade,

NOTING that certain Customs or Economic Unions are active participants in the work of the Organization,

ACKNOWLEDGING the legitimate desire of one Customs or Economic Union to place this participation on a formal footing by becoming a Member of the Organization, and the possibility that others may wish to do so in the future,

BEARING IN MIND that in order for a Customs or Economic Union to become a Member, an amendment must be made to the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council,

BEARING IN MIND also the provisions of Article XX of the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council, concerning the amendment of that Convention,

RECOMMENDS to all Contracting Parties to the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council, the following amendments to that Convention :

*Amend Article VIII (a) of the Convention to read as follows :*

**ARTICLE VIII**

- (a) **With the exception of Customs or Economic Union Members, for which the Council shall make specific provisions,** each Member of the Council shall have one vote except that a Member shall not have a vote on any question relating to the interpretation, application or amendment of any of the Conventions referred to in Article III (d) which is in force and which does not apply to that Member.

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<sup>1</sup> Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is the official name of the World Customs Organization.

*Insert a new sub-paragraph (d) in Article XVIII of the Convention, which will then read as follows :*

ARTICLE XVIII

- (a) The Government of any State which is not a signatory to the present Convention may accede thereto as from 1 April 1951.
- (b) Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which shall notify all signatory and acceding Governments and the Secretary General of each such deposit.
- (c) The present Convention shall come into force for any acceding Government on the deposit of its instrument of accession, but not before it comes into force in accordance with paragraph (a) of Article XVII.
- (d) Any Customs or Economic Union may become, in accordance with paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above, a Contracting Party to this Convention. Any request from a Customs or Economic Union to become a Contracting Party shall first be submitted to the Council for approval. For the purposes of this Convention, "Customs or Economic Union" means a Union constituted by, and composed of, States which has competence to adopt its own regulations that are binding on those States in respect of matters governed by this Convention, and has competence to decide, in accordance with its internal procedures, to accede to this Convention.**

REQUESTS Contracting Parties to the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council which accept this Recommendation to notify the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in writing, of their acceptance.

x

x      x

**EXTRACT FROM THE CONVENTION ESTABLISHING**  
**A CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL**

“.....

ARTICLE XX

- (a) The Council may recommend amendments to the present Convention to the Contracting Parties.
- (b) Any Contracting Party accepting an amendment shall notify the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in writing of its acceptance and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall notify all signatory and acceding Governments and the Secretary General of the receipt of the notice of acceptance.
- (c) An amendment shall come into force three months after receipt by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs of notice of acceptance by all the Contracting Parties. When any amendment has been accepted by all the Contracting Parties the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall notify all signatory and acceding Governments and the Secretary General of such acceptance and of the date on which the amendment will come into force.
- (d) After an amendment has come into force, no Government may ratify or accede to the present Convention unless it also accepts the amendment.

.....”

x

x x

SPECIMEN

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE  
of the amendments to the Convention  
establishing a Customs Co-operation Council  
(concluded at Brussels on 15 December 1950)  
recommended by the Council at its 109<sup>th</sup>/110<sup>th</sup> Sessions in June 2007

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WHEREAS the Government of ..... is a Contracting Party  
to the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council, concluded at Brussels on the  
fifteenth day of December, nineteen hundred and fifty;

WHEREAS, on the thirtieth day of June, two thousand and seven, the Council recommended to the  
Contracting Parties certain amendments to Article VIII and Article XVIII of the said Convention;

AND WHEREAS Article XX of the said Convention requires that any Contracting Party accepting an  
amendment thereto shall notify the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in writing of its  
acceptance;

NOW THEREFORE the Government of .....  
....., having considered and approved the amendments to Article VIII  
and Article XVIII of the said Convention which were recommended by the Council, do hereby  
formally accept those amendments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I, .....  
(name)

Minister for .....

have signed this Notice of Acceptance and have affixed thereto the Seal of my Office.

(Seal) .....  
(signature)

(Place) .....this ..... day of .....20.....

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