



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE CUSTOMS UNION
AND THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

The Secretariat of the Commission of the Customs Union, as represented by the Executive Secretary, Sergey Glazyev, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), as represented by the Executive Secretary, Ján Kubiš, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”,

- **RECOGNIZING** the desire of the Parties to cooperate in order to promote regional economic cooperation and integration in the wider European space, support efforts to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as formulated in the Millennium Declaration, and mutually reinforce one another’s efforts to develop the economic well-being of the people in the European region,
- **RECOGNIZING** UNECE’s role as a focal point in the wider European region for the development and promotion of United Nation’s legal norms, standards, recommendations and tools for transport, environment, trade, energy, statistics and other areas,
- **RECOGNIZING** the important role of the Customs Union within the Eurasian Economic Community in strengthening the trade and economic cooperation of its Member States, and their integration into the international trading system, in the interests of sustainable development,
- **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the intent of the Parties to establish an appropriate mechanism for such cooperation,

hereby agree to the following:

Article 1.

Under this Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter referred to as the “Memorandum”, the Parties will cooperate within the framework of their

respective mandates and authority in order to implement specific activities in agreed priority areas and expand the scope of their cooperation.

Article 2.

2.1. Within the agreed framework, cooperate in order to:

- Promote wider European economic cooperation and integration;
- Further regulatory cooperation at regional and international levels, including by promoting common ways of managing risks related to products and production methods, in compliance with international practices;
- Develop trade facilitation measures, notably, in the implementation of the Single Window concept for export and import clearance;
- Organize joint activities and research contributing to the further harmonization of trade information flows, data exchange and electronic documents with a view to their alignment to international standards;
- Study possibilities for harmonizing Customs and other border control procedures on the basis of the Harmonization Convention, 1982;
- Develop joint recommendations on the facilitation of Customs transit by rail and road;
- Contribute to the harmonization of energy-related trade, transit and security regulations and the implementation of international best practices;
- Cooperate in other areas of common interest.

2.2. The Parties will develop and regularly update a programme of cooperation in the abovementioned areas.

2.3. Within the framework of the Memorandum, the Parties will be guided by established principles and standards of international law, and shall cooperate in accordance with the principles of equity, transparency and reciprocity.

Article 3.

3.1. The Parties agree, whenever appropriate, to:

- Conduct consultations and organize seminars and other events on issues of common interest;
- Extend to one another invitations to conferences, symposiums, forums and other events related to their cooperation in agreed priority areas;
- Exchange non-confidential information and documents;
- Take part in the joint preparation of analytical reviews and other studies in areas of common interest;
- Expand their cooperation and develop joint projects and activities with other regional organizations in the broader European space.

Article 4.

- 4.1. This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of its signing. Either party may terminate the Memorandum by issuing a notice in writing to the other Party. Such termination becomes effective three months after the date of receipt of the notice by the other Party.
- 4.2. Any amendment to this Memorandum shall be made by mutual agreement of the Parties through the signing of a relevant supplementary protocol to this effect.
- 4.3. Specific cooperative activities initiated by the Parties in the framework of this Memorandum shall be administered under separate project documents, and written agreements, whereby the obligations of the Parties, sources of financing, type of activity and its duration shall be clearly specified.
- 4.4. This Memorandum is considered to be a jointly agreed statement of intention by the Parties and does not impose on them any financial or legal obligations. The Memorandum shall not interfere with the Parties' rights and obligations

originating from other similar agreements, or their rights to enter into other such agreements.

- 4.5. Both Parties shall make their best efforts to promptly settle through direct negotiations any disputes arising from, or in connection with, the implementation of this Memorandum.

Signed in Moscow, on 7 April 2011, in two copies, each copy in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic and having the same legal force.

**For the Secretariat of the Commission
of the Customs Union**

**For the United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe**

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Sergey Glazyev
Executive Secretary

.....
Ján Kubiš
Executive Secretary