

Secure Trade/Trade and Transport Security

October 2009

Mutual recognition of EU-US trade partnership programs is a flagship project agreed by the TEC in November 2007. Both sides are committed to achieving it according to the agreed EU/US roadmap revised in November 2008. The next step is regional workshops that will take place in Europe in the coming weeks to share best practices and information on Member States AEO programs. Legal discussions on the appropriate formalization of mutual recognition are also currently underway. All validation and legal work, for the purpose of finalizing mutual recognition discussions, should take place as soon as possible in time for the upcoming meeting of the U.S.-EC JCCC in early 2010 so that mutual recognition discussions can be brought to conclusion at that meeting.

Customs cooperation: In 2008/2009 the EU sent customs officers to the U.S. National Targeting Center-Cargo as part of our ongoing commitment to enhance transatlantic security. Based on a Commission report setting out the outcomes and recommendations of this pilot program the U.S.-EC Joint Customs Cooperation Committee (JCCC) will examine the possibility of a second phase to this cooperation.

December 2008

In March 2008, U.S. and EU customs authorities agreed on a roadmap for achieving mutual recognition in 2009 of their respective secure trade programs (the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism program in the United States, and the Authorized Economic Operator program in the European Union). Progress continues. U.S. Customs and Border Protection together with the European Commission's Taxation and Customs Union Directorate General have drafted an "abridged version" of the roadmap, which they expect to release to industry and other stakeholders by the end of 2008. At its meeting in March 2008, the Joint Customs Cooperation Committee (JCCC) agreed to establish mutual recognition of trade partnership programs in 2009, consistent with the roadmap.

100% scanning: At the May 13 and December 12, 2008 TEC meetings, the European Commission reiterated its concerns regarding the U.S. legislation requiring 100 percent scanning of containers bound for U.S. ports starting in 2012. The European Commission considers this legislation to be a potential new trade barrier, imposing significant costs on economic operators, which will not bring any benefit in terms of supply chain security. Nevertheless, the United States and the European Commission recognize the need for enhanced cooperation on a multi-layered, risk-based approach.

May 2008

The European Commission and the United States Government recalled their commitment to the multi-layered, risk based approach in supply chain security and to fully implementing the U.S.-EU Joint Customs Cooperation Committee Roadmap Towards Mutual Recognition of Trade

Partnership Programs, adopted on 6 March 2008. The United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the European Commission will work to implement the Roadmap and achieve mutual recognition of the U.S. and EU supply chain security programs – that is, the U.S. Customs- Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and the EU Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program – in 2009, including by exchanging best practices and cooperating on supply chain security measures. The United States and EU have also put in place the agreed exchange of customs officials specialising in risk management, starting by stationing in April 2008 EU customs officials at the U.S. National Targeting Center – Cargo.

The European Commission and the U.S. government will include in their discussions on secure trade the issue of the eventual implementation of the U.S. legislation on 100% scanning of containers. The European Commission recalled its concern about this issue and took note that certain U.S. legislators have flagged their willingness to look into this issue.

November 2007

The U.S. government and the European Commission have agreed to work cooperatively to develop effective and mutually acceptable solutions to secure cargo trade. With this in mind, they have agreed on a joint roadmap setting out the key performance-based stages required to reach mutual recognition of U.S. and EU Customs-Trade partnership programs in 2009 or to report fully if there are serious difficulties preventing this. Mutual recognition will increase security in transatlantic trade and provide for enhanced customs treatment for economic operators who have invested in supply chain security.

They have also agreed to exchange customs officials specialising in risk management in order to improve supply chain security in the U.S. and EU. This exchange will focus initially on the stationing of EU customs officials at the U.S. National Targeting Center – Cargo.