

Quarterly SACU Customs Bulletin July to September 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1. SACU AND WCO HOST 5TH JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**
- 2. SACU DEVELOPS CUSTOMS RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**
- 3. SACU LAUNCHES TRADE PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT**
- 4. SACU UNDERTAKES TRADE DATA AUDIT**

1. SACU AND WCO HOST 5TH MEETING OF THE JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE

The SACU and World Customs Organization (WCO) Secretariats successfully organized and hosted the 5th meeting of the Steering Committee for the Customs Development Programme on 7th October 2011 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Meetings of the Steering Committee are held at regular intervals to review progress, provide guidance and make decision regarding the implementation of the programme.

The 5th meeting of the Committee was attended by all SACU Heads of Customs Administrations, the SACU Secretariat, WCO and the Trans Kalahari Corridor (TKC) Secretariat.

The meeting was also attended by National Project Managers.

The Committee adopted regional Customs policies that will guide the implementation of the regional Customs Modernization programme. The Committee further approved the new project management and governance approach.

The Customs development Programme is supported financially by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

2. CUSTOMS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

SACU continues to implement the Customs Development Programme under the assistance of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). During this quarter both SACU and WCO held a workshop on customs risk management. The aim of the workshop was to develop a SACU Risk Strategy. The Strategy is meant to assist the SACU Customs administrations to apply similar risk management techniques in the clearance of goods. The risk management strategy is also intended to support the customs

Quarterly SACU Customs Bulletin July to September 2011

enforcement initiative. The risk management strategy is based on international risk management instruments. The strategy has been presented at the next Steering Committee meeting.



SACU develops customs risk management strategy

3. SACU TRADE PARTNERSHIPS PROJECT



SACU Lauches Trade Partnership Project with the World Customs Organisation

Trade Partnerships is one of the priority instruments that has been identified by the SACU Council of Ministers as a valuable tool for the achievement of

trade facilitation within SACU. It will serve as a useful tool for encouraging voluntary compliance by traders. SACU seeks to adopt a Trade Partnership strategy that is based on an Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) programme, which rewards compliance; facilitates legitimate trade; and promotes mutual recognition among Member States as well as with third parties.

SACU intends implementing a phased AEO programme, starting with a Preferred Trader Programme. The Preferred Trader programme will be implemented within a period of 3 years. Preparatory activities including an assessment of the current state of play in Member States have commenced.

From 9 to 12 August 2011, SACU, with assistance of WCO, held a Trade Partnership workshop to define the key parameters for the Preferred Trader Programme.

The workshop also agreed on an approach to both national and regional Customs Stakeholder forums. The private sector involvement was emphasized during the customs policy consultations that took place in SACU Member States (except in Namibia) from March to May 2011. Preparations to engage members of the private sector in SACU customs matters are underway.

Quarterly SACU Customs Bulletin July to September 2011

4. SACU SECRETARIAT UNDERTAKES AUDIT OF TRADE DATA IN MEMBER STATES

SACU Secretariat © 2011

During the year 2006, SACU commissioned a study on the trade data audit and verification. The project was conducted with the assistance of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HRMC) from the UK. The study identified a range of risks that compromise the integrity of intra-SACU import and export data. These risks relate to data capture, processing and definitions of what constitutes intra-SACU trade.

In an effort to address these risks, a Data Integrity Minimum Standard was developed. The Standard defines a set of controls and tests to be undertaken by Member States in an effort to ensure accurate data.

During the last quarter, the Secretariat undertook data audits in Member States with the objective of assessing compliance with the Standard.

In July and August 2011 audits were undertaken in Lesotho and South Africa respectively. Audits in Botswana and Namibia were undertaken in 2010. An audit of Swaziland's data will be undertaken before the end of the financial year.
