



MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE
Revised Kyoto Convention
20th Meeting
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17 - 18 June 2019
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PO0120E1a

Brussels, 16 May 2019.

**PRESENTATION BY MEMBERS ON THEIR ACCESSION PROCEDURES AND
EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AND NATIONAL PRACTICES**

(Item V on the Agenda)

I. Background

1. The number of Contracting Parties (CPs) to the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) has reached 118 out of the 183 WCO Members; they are distributed unevenly over the six WCO regions. It is worthwhile to indicate that the number of CPs has reached this number thanks to the recent accession of Cook Islands and Tuvalu. In order to support the accession to, and the implementation of the Convention, the RKC Management Committee (RKC/MC) had, during its 12th meeting, recommended that the Contracting Parties (CPs) share their experiences on the accession to the RKC, as well as on the implementation of its provisions.
2. At the 19th Meeting of the RKC/MC, the recent accession experiences of Georgia, Vanuatu and Kiribati, were presented. Georgia and the Secretariat (on behalf of the two latter countries) also presented on the difficulties encountered and ways in which they were overcome.
3. Since the aforementioned 19th Meeting of the RKC/MC, Cook Islands and Tuvalu have also acceded to the RKC. It is important to note that Cook Islands and Tuvalu, which are not already Members of the WCO, acceded to the Convention under the relevant provisions of Article 8 thereof (first sub-paragraph), which state that in addition to WCO Members, any Member of the United Nations (UN) or its specialized agencies may become a Contracting Party to the RKC by acceding to it. It is expected that Cook Islands and Tuvalu will be sharing their accession experiences with the RKC/MC.
4. The delegates to the 19th Meeting of the RKC/MC, also enjoyed a presentation from the delegate of New Zealand who shared his country's national experience on the implementation of Chapter 4 of the General Annex, related to deferred payment of duties and taxes. He presented, among others, the two deferred payment schemes currently applied in his country and outlined the benefits of deferred payment for economic operators. He also indicated payment delays as the main challenge faced by his Administration in the implementation of the mentioned RKC provisions.

5. Additionally, the Delegate of Switzerland shared the national experience of his country in implementing the provisions of the RKC Specific Annex K on rules of origin. He, then, explained that his country did not request non-preferential proof of origin for importations. He added that certification of Swiss non-preferential origin could be paper-based or electronic (via an online platform), and described different ways of verifying the authenticity of certificates. He concluded his presentation by raising the issue related to the non-acceptance of electronic certificates by some countries, and the need to harmonize non-preferential rules of origin for the benefit of the global economy.
6. The RKC/MC took note of the presentations by some delegates, both on the accession to, and the implementation of the RKC, including views expressed by other participants. In this regard, the RKC/MC once again encouraged other CPs to share their national experiences, success stories, and lessons learned.
7. Since the last RKC/MC meeting, the Secretariat received requests from Members about the implementation of certain provisions of the RKC. At this meeting, Members will share their national experiences/practices with the implementation of some RKC provisions.

II. Action required

8. On the basis of the foregoing, the RKC Management Committee is invited to :
 - take note of the presentations by the delegates of these Contracting Parties;
 - share and discuss related national experiences on RKC accessions to, as well as on the implementation of RKC provisions; and
 - provide guidance to WCO Members and other potential Contracting Parties on these areas.
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