



## Fact Sheet

# **WCO FRAMEWORK OF STANDARDS TO SECURE AND FACILITATE GLOBAL TRADE**

### **What they are saying about the Framework...**

**Theo Fletcher, Vice President: Supply Chain Compliance, Security and Diversity, IBM**

*"Ratification of the WCO Framework of Standards is a landmark event in our ability to ensure the physical movement of goods globally. I urge all WCO Members to promptly take the necessary first steps for the global implementation of the Framework. Besides improving the security of our trade lanes, the Framework offers significant collateral benefits for all participants, including the efficiencies derived from a common global process, cost reductions and supply chain resiliency."*

**Isabelle Roca, Customs and Trade Manager, Renault SAS**

*"Companies that have applied advanced information technologies to their international trade procedures and which track their exports and imports, stand to benefit significantly from the introduction of the WCO's new Framework of Standards. These companies will be granted the status of 'approved partners' ('authorized economic operators') by their relevant Customs authorities. This will automatically improve their reputation on the international marketplace. Renault has integrated its entire customs clearance procedure into its company structure with a view to improve earnings and competitiveness internationally. We now use a global information system with high security features, which allows us to reduce clearance time from the 4 hours previously necessary to 15 minutes."*

**Renee Stein, Senior Manager: Global Trade Compliance and Policy, Microsoft Corporation**

*"Microsoft supports the work of the WCO in the development of comprehensive supply chain security standards under the Framework and commends the WCO for its continued efforts to partner with the private sector to ensure the continued balance between trade security and trade facilitation in international trade."*

**Ronald K. Noble, Secretary General, Interpol**

*"As the developments and improvements in technology help reduce the boundaries of trade and communication, they also offer increased opportunities to criminals. It is essential that the global law enforcement community take advantage of technological expertise and knowledge to further develop methods of combating trans-national crime. Sharing expertise and implementing international standards help promote co-operation between law enforcement, Customs and the business community which will, in turn, create a safer trade environment. The WCO Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade is a step forward in achieving this."*



**Declaration of the EU-U.S. Summit, Washington, 20 June 2005**

*"Our joint efforts contributed significantly to development of the WCO Framework of Standards. We strongly support the adoption of this Framework by the WCO Council in June 2005, and are committed to its implementation. We will build on this progress to continue working toward avoiding adverse consequences for transatlantic shippers, and by working to ensure the compatibility of the EU's Authorized Economic Operator concept and the U.S. C-TPAT Program."*

**John Simpson, Director General, Global Express Association**

*"The global express industry has enjoyed much success in recent decades in enabling companies, both large and small, to maximize the efficiency of their logistics operations and their competitiveness in export markets. This success is attributable to express operators' heavy investment in secure, integrated transport and highly-sophisticated information systems, and in large part to the efforts of Customs administrations around the world to apply increasingly modern and simplified procedures that have enabled them to facilitate the movement of legitimate trade and more effectively target suspect shipments for further inspection."*

*The US terrorist incident of 11 September 2001 threatened, and may still threaten, to reverse the significant gains in Customs modernization and trade facilitation. The WCO's new Framework of Standards is a step away from such a disastrous scenario. The Framework is a balanced response to the threat of terrorism, and provides both Customs and businesses with a set of standards that, if fully and properly implemented, will enhance international supply chain security without interrupting the seamless movement of goods, through increased co-operation and coordination between Customs administrations in importing and exporting countries and, perhaps more importantly, between Customs administrations and businesses".*

**Jean Rey, Secretary General, International Container Bureau**

*"The International Container Bureau (ICB) has been involved since 1933 in the development of safe container traffic by promoting a unique container marking system based on ISO global standards. It was therefore natural that the ICB would co-operate closely with the WCO, with whom we have an MOU, in the development of the WCO's Framework of Standards. We wish the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade and particularly container traffic much success".*

**Carol West, Secretary, International Federation of Customs Brokers (IFCBA)**

*"Customs brokers around the world welcome global standards of security, standardized processes, uniform data requirements and automated systems to facilitate international trade. The Framework of Standards will assist traders and their supply chain partners to understand and realize these objectives and we congratulate the World Customs Organization on this important achievement. Customs brokers manage the majority of international trade transactions on behalf of large and small business, and we are committed to the principles and practices outlined in the Framework that will facilitate trade across secure borders".*



**Herman de Meester, Deputy Secretary General, European Community Shipowners' Association**

*"The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA), BIMCO, the World Shipping Council and their member associations and companies are committed to enhancing security, and support the establishment of international principles and rules that improve cargo security while facilitating international trade. We welcome the WCO's Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade that brings us a step closer to realizing that objective.*

*The IMO's ISPS Code comprehensively regulates vessel and port security internationally. Our industry fully supports the Code, which has been proven to work – and work effectively. The WCO Framework makes clear that intergovernmental requirements such as the ISPS Code must be recognized by Customs administrations and not be duplicated or contradicted. This is a sound and correct approach.*

*The WCO Framework embodies many positive concepts. These will need specificity and further elaboration in order to lead to tangible benefits and concrete measures that enhance security and facilitate trade. Our associations look forward to continuing to offer our assistance to the WCO and its Member Customs administrations as they embark on that challenging work".*

**John A. Broadhurst, Vice President, COTECNA Inspection SA**

*"Cotecna wishes to congratulate the WCO's development of the draft Framework of Standards, a bold step forward for Customs modernization that will assist in securing and facilitating global trade once adopted by Customs administrations. As a member of the Taskforce, Cotecna had the opportunity to appreciate the collaborative spirit of the WCO in the consultative meetings with the private sector. We feel that open dialogue is the path to winning the support of global business.*

*As an active member of the ISO Working Groups on supply chain security, we expect that this Framework will be a fulcrum for international standards. We are also conscious of the enormous challenge that the implementation of the Framework will represent to certain Customs administration and Cotecna, in its modest way, looks forward to participating in the capacity building needs.*

*The twin pillars of the Framework are ground breaking; the 'Customs-Customs' pillar in our opinion is a major opportunity for building bridges between Customs of the world. Effective mutual recognition will reinforce the standards and generate synergies and pride throughout Customs administrations. The 'Customs-Business' pillar underlines the critical need for public-private partnerships to make our world more secure. Cotecna is a strong proponent of such an approach".*