



Ref.No: Note-2023-1071

The Secretariat of the Organization of Turkic States presents its compliments to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member and Observer States and, with reference to its Note No: 2023-920 dated 26 October 2023, has the honour to enclose herewith the Agreed Minutes of the 9th Meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations and 12th Meeting of the Working Group on Customs Cooperation of the OTS held on 11 December 2023 in Tashkent.

In line with the above-referred Agreed Minutes, the Secretariat kindly requests the following:

- Turkish side to submit the renewed concept of the Silk Road initiative and Caravansarai project indicating further steps to achieve tangible results, by 1 March 2024;

- Uzbek side to submit to the Secretariat the drafts of “Technical Conditions for Information Interaction between the Customs Administrations of the OTS”, “Regulation on the Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations”, “Road Map on expanding the use of the “e-TIR” system for freight transport” and “Framework Agreement among the Customs Laboratories”;

- Hungarian side to submit proposals on the exact dates of the Conference of Heads of Customs Administrations of the OTS to be hosted in 2024 in Budapest;

- The Parties hosting the following activities to submit the proposals on the dates of events to the Secretariat by 1 February 2024:

- training programs on “Theoretical and practical bases of determining the customs value of goods imported to the Republic of Azerbaijan” and “Customs valuation of goods brought by the individuals on preferential and simplified bases to the customs territory” to be hosted by Azerbaijani side;

- workshop on GPS tracking devices and vehicle tracking systems to be hosted by Turkish side in February 2024;

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

CC: Customs Administrations of the Member States and Hungary

- capacity building program on implementation of “eTIR” to be co-hosted by Azerbaijani and Uzbek sides;

- all Parties to nominate their members to the Working Group on Customs Cooperation and provide their contact information to the Secretariat;

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministries the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.: as stated



Istanbul, 21 December 2023



AGREED MINUTES
OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES

(11 December 2023, Tashkent)

The 9th meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was held on 11 December 2023 in Tashkent.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Akmalkhuja Mavlonov, Chairman of the Customs Committee under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan and attended by H.E. Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev, Secretary General of the OTS, H.E. Shahin Baghirov, Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Zhandos Duysembiev, Chairman of the State Revenue Committee of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Samat Isabekov, Chairman of the State Customs Service under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, H.E. Sezai Uçarmak, Deputy Minister of Trade and Head of Customs Administration of the Republic of Türkiye and Mr. András János Zólyom, Head of Customs Department of the Central Management of the NTCA, Hungary (*hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"*).

The agenda as adopted by the Parties and the list of participants of the meeting are attached herewith (Annex-I and Annex-II).

H.E. Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev, the Secretary General of the OTS, addressed the meeting, emphasizing the critical role of customs in trade promotion amidst global challenges. He highlighted the OTS's focus on customs and trade facilitation, stressing efforts to simplify procedures and digitize trade-related operations.

The Secretary General underlined that in the recent Astana Summit, Heads of State instructed to continue joint efforts aimed at simplifying customs procedures, introducing digital tools in customs operations, sharing best practices, conducting capacity-building programs, and ensuring the uninterrupted operation of customs-border checkpoints to enhance the competitiveness and attractiveness of the Middle Corridor.

The Secretary General also mentioned notable achievements, including field visits to Border Crossing Points, capacity-building workshops, the Caravanserai Project, digital TIR projects, successful eTIR operations, and the signing of sectorial agreements during summits. In this context, he highlighted the need for the soonest completion of internal procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Agreement on the Establishment of Simplified Customs Corridor on 11 November 2022 in Samarkand.

The Secretary General further underscored further steps needed to be taken in customs development, including customs harmonization, real-time information exchange, mutual recognition of AEO programs, electronic transit systems, capacity building, border control infrastructure modernization, and collaboration with international organizations, in particular with the WCO.

H.E. Akmalhuja Mavlonov, Chairman of the Customs Committee under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan, highlighted significant initiatives and achievements aimed at strengthening cooperation within the OTS. He acknowledged Uzbekistan's commitment to the OTS's goals and outlined efforts made since 2019 to enhance friendship, cooperation, and multilateral relations among Turkic states. The Chairman made the following key proposals during his speech:

- developing “Technical Conditions for Information Interaction between the Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States” under the said Agreement. The Chairman informed that Uzbek side prepared the draft of the Technical Conditions.

- establishing the Council of Heads of Customs Administrations of the OTS as a main platform for coordination of activities and exchange of experience among the customs services and adopting its Regulation at the next meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations. The draft Regulation was prepared by Uzbek side.

- developing a “Road Map” aimed at expanding the use of the “e-TIR” system for freight transport between the OTS countries and encouraging the further dissemination of international digital tools. To that end, the Chairman proposed to consider the draft “Road Map” submitted by Uzbek side.

- establishing cooperation in the improvement of the risk management system and information exchange on the identified risks on foreign trade goods benefiting the experience of other international organizations (APEC, EEU, CBSS) as well as organizing field visits of the experts every six months for an exchange of experience with advanced methods. It was noted that to implement these proposals, the draft “Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Risk Management” was developed by Uzbek side.

- establishing cooperation in the field of customs expertise and research and developing an agreement in this direction. The Chairman shared information on the Central Customs Laboratory which has been operating as a regional laboratory of the World Customs Organization since 2021. The laboratory has been modernized and equipped with the latest technologies, and new areas of expertise are being introduced. He expressed readiness of Uzbek side to prepare the draft Agreement with the support of the Parties.

H.E. Shahin Baghirov, Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, emphasized President Ilham Aliyev's leadership in reforming Azerbaijan's customs system, focusing on fostering an attractive trade and investment climate, simplifying trade procedures, and implementing significant projects.

He spotlighted the initiative on simplifying the transit customs procedure along the Middle Corridor, emphasizing the Single Transit Portal's role in digitalizing customs operations, streamlining transit, and enhancing information exchange for effective customs control. He emphasized that a draft “Framework Agreement on the creation of a Unified Transit Portal along the Trans-Caspian International Middle East-West Corridor” has been prepared and the corresponding procedures have been launched.

Mr. Baghirov underscored significant MoUs signed to facilitate smoother border movement, protect supply chains, and support customs cooperation among the member countries and Georgia. Collaborative efforts with Member States, like joint advisory commissions and training programs, were highlighted, emphasizing the importance of sharing experiences for mutual development.

The Chairman also mentioned ongoing reforms within the Azerbaijan Customs Service, including the Strategic Action Plan for 2022-2024, development projects in the liberated territories, and innovative initiatives such as the Automated Risk Analysis System based on Artificial Intelligence (ARAS) and the Smart-Bot mobile application.

H.E. Zhandos Duysembiev, Chairman of the State Revenue Committee of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan, underlined Kazakhstan's proactive measures in developing international supply chains, promoting business competitiveness, and enhancing customs authorities' transparency and efficiency. Highlighting Kazakhstan's strategic geographical position as a transit country linking Europe and Asia, he emphasized the country's foreign economic policy aimed at expanding global economic integration.

Chairman Duysembiev stressed the need for the expanded implementation of the eTIR information system to expedite and streamline transportation, offering benefits such as exemption from inspections, customs escorts, additional insurance, and utilization of a single document. He supported the initiative of Uzbek side to create road maps with defined deadlines for this implementation.

The Chairman welcomed the initiative to enhance cooperation in customs risk management among relevant customs centers within the OTS, emphasizing the persistence of illegal movement of prohibited substances and goods across member countries. He advocated for round-the-clock contacts between customs authorities' target centers to accumulate real-time operational information, aiming to combat illegal goods trafficking effectively.

Mr. Duysembiev supported the prospects of cooperation among customs services in customs examinations and laboratory activities. He highlighted the significance of a unified approach to testing methods for vital goods, aiming to enhance customs efficiency and provide a scientific foundation for comprehensive technical support.

H.E. Samat Isabekov, Chairman of the State Customs Service under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, highlighted the OTS's objective of fostering mutually beneficial cooperation and unified customs regulation among Turkic-speaking nations.

Mr. Isabekov stressed that collaborative efforts among customs services within the OTS framework would positively impact business communities, reducing economic barriers in mutual trade.

The Chairman emphasized the significance of such gatherings for finding optimal mechanisms of customs policy cooperation. He expressed confidence that joint actions focusing on refining and simplifying customs procedures, swift information exchange, and balancing trade security without burdening businesses or citizens would be vital for international trade.

Chairman Isabekov informed on introducing the customs information system and TIR/TIR-EPD prioritisation launched at the Dostuk border checkpoint of Kyrgyzstan.

In this regard, he underscored the importance of coordinated efforts in achieving common goals and solving shared challenges.

H.E. Sezai Uçarmak, Deputy Minister of Trade and Head of Customs Administration of the Republic of Türkiye, highlighted that cooperation within the OTS offers a significant opportunity, stressing the importance of seizing this moment for mutual benefit. The potential benefits of collaboration for East-West transportation corridors were underscored, emphasizing the need for enhancements in transit transportation. Additionally, the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement was referenced, pointing out that the majority of its articles pertain to customs, indicating the substantial impact of customs improvements on trade facilitation.

Regarding trade flow obstacles, Mr. Uçarmak mentioned a TRACECA Report from 1993, outlining three main problems: extended waits with unknown causes, discrepancies in customs concepts, and road infrastructure deficiencies. Progress in these areas over the last 30 years was acknowledged, highlighting the learning from this extensive period and the current environment utilizing advanced technologies like artificial intelligence. Turkish side expressed readiness to engage in comprehensive customs cooperation with member countries, focusing on ensuring ease of transit.

The Deputy Minister informed that Türkiye initiated simplified customs practices for cross-border e-commerce in 1998, followed by the electronic Simplified Customs Declaration system in 2011, setting a global standard and offering significant benefits to their exporters. Mutually sharing experiences with the member countries remains a priority for enhanced collaboration and mutual learning.

Mr. András János Zólyom, Head of the Customs Department of the Central Management of the NTCA, Hungary, delivered a speech at the meeting, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to participate. He highlighted the significance of cooperation between Hungary and the OTS across various sectors, emphasizing its pivotal role in shaping the state's Eastern Opening policy.

Mr. Zólyom recalled Hungary's 2018 entry as an Observer in the OTS, aiming to broaden the OTS's scope by facilitating collaboration between the European Union and Turkic Speaking States. He highlighted the significant customs-related cooperation during the challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. This involved a video conference among the Member States and Hungary to exchange experiences and subsequent online meetings and consultations among Heads of Customs, reinforcing the commitment to joint action during crises.

Mr. Zólyom announced Hungary's plan to organize a conference of Heads of Customs of the OTS in Budapest in 2024, extending an invitation to all member states. He expressed hope for acceptance of the invitation, inviting delegations to experience Budapest while furthering customs cooperation.

Following the discussions, the Parties agreed on the following:

1. The Parties commended the outcomes of the Multilateral Meeting of the Heads of Customs Authorities dedicated to the Project for simplifying transit customs procedure along the Trans-Caspian International “East-West” Middle Corridor using the "Single Window" principle (Data pipeline) hosted by the Azerbaijani side on 14-15 March 2023 in Baku, that led to the development of “Transit portal”.

To that end, the Parties urged to expedite the work in this direction using the transit portal in line with the instructions of the Heads of State on regional integration through simplification, modernization, standardization and harmonization of customs procedures, further application of digital tools in customs, sharing best practices and conducting capacity building programs, as outlined in Samarkand Declaration of the OTS Summit. The Parties are requested to support the

work being conducted by the Working Group created to that end and facilitate the submission of requested information.

2. The Parties agreed on the importance of the Silk Road initiative and Caravansarai project emphasising the need for concrete efforts to be made in the future to achieve more tangible results. To that end, Turkish side in consultation with the Secretariat will renovate the concept of the project and submit it to the Parties for consideration by 1 March 2024.

3. The Parties stressed the necessity to accelerate the completion of internal procedures for the entry into force of the Agreement on the Establishment of Simplified Customs Corridor among the Governments of the Organization of Turkic States signed on 11 November 2022 in Samarkand.

The Parties welcomed the preparation by Uzbek side of the draft “Technical Conditions for Information Interaction between the Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States” under the said Agreement. The Parties instructed the experts in charge of the issue to take necessary steps and hold experts’ meetings to discuss and finalize the draft Technical Conditions for its adoption at the next meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations. The Parties will submit their proposals and views on the draft Technical Conditions to the OTS Secretariat until 1 April 2024.

4. The Parties welcomed the initiative of the Uzbek side on enhancing the mechanism of the Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations. To that end, they instructed the Working Group to discuss a Regulation of the mechanism outlining more active engagement of the Customs Administrations in promoting the customs agenda within the OTS. Uzbek side will submit the draft Regulation to the Secretariat via diplomatic channels by the end of 2023.

5. The Parties welcomed the proposal of Uzbek side to develop a “Road Map” aimed at expanding the use of the “e-TIR” system for freight transport between the OTS countries and encouraging the further dissemination of international digital tools. To that end, the Customs Administrations of the Member States will submit to the Secretariat their proposals for drafting the “Road Map”. The Secretariat will convene an online experts’ meeting to discuss and finalize the draft “Road Map” in January 2024.

6. The Parties expressed their readiness to establish cooperation between target (situational, command, analytical) centers of Customs Administrations. The Parties will define the scope of such cooperation and discuss the possibility of creating a legal framework for further interaction among the institutions.

7. The Parties took note of the information from the Uzbek side on the necessity of establishing cooperation among the customs laboratories and agreed to develop a draft Framework Agreement with the plan of concrete activities in this sphere.

8. The Parties agreed to organize the following activities in the course of 2024:

- Training programs on “Theoretical and practical bases of determining the customs value of goods imported to the Republic of Azerbaijan” and “Customs valuation of goods brought by the individuals on preferential and simplified bases to the customs territory” to be hosted by Azerbaijani side;

- workshop on GPS tracking devices and vehicle tracking systems to be hosted by Turkish side in February 2024;
- capacity building program on implementation of “eTIR” to be co-hosted by Azerbaijani and Uzbek sides based on their successful implementation of the project in cooperation with the UNECE.

The Parties hosting the activities will submit the proposals on the dates of events to the Secretariat by 1 February 2024.

9. The OTS Secretariat will coordinate the implementation of the voiced initiatives and proposals of the Parties and submit their outcomes to the next meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the OTS.

10. The Parties welcomed the proposal of Hungarian side to host the Conference of Heads of Customs Administrations of the OTS in 2024 in Budapest. Hungarian side will submit the proposals on the exact dates of the Conference.

11. Parties expressed their gratitude to the Customs Committee under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting 9th meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations and appreciated Azerbaijani side for the proposal to host the 10th meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations in 2024 in Azerbaijan. The exact date of the meeting will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

Following the Meeting, the Parties signed the Protocol of the 9th Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States (Annex III).

It is hereby certified that this Minutes reflects the true content of the discussions and is agreed upon by the Parties.



**H.E. Amb. Kubanychbek Omuraliev,
Secretary General of the Organization of
Turkic States**



IX MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES

(11 December 2023, Tashkent, Uzbekistan)

AGENDA

1. Implementing the decisions of the 8th Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States.
2. Discussion on the further implementation of the Agreement on the Establishment of Simplified Customs Corridor among the Governments of the Organization of Turkic States signed on 11 November 2022 in Samarkand:
 - Completing internal procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Agreement;
 - Drafting technical conditions for the exchange of information under the Agreement.
3. Discussion on the implementation of the Silk Road Initiative and Caravanserai Project.
4. Improving the activities of the Customs Administrations of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States.
5. Expanding the implementation of eTIR for freight transport between the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States.
6. Establishing cooperation in the field of customs risk management, as well as between the targeting (*situational, command, analytical*) centers of the Customs Administrations within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States.
7. Establishing the practice of interaction in the field of laboratory research.
8. Determining the date and place for the next 10th meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States.
9. Signing the Protocol of the 9th Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States.
10. Any other business.



**9th MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS
AND
12th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CUSTOMS COOPERATION**

10-13 December 2023, Tashkent

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AZERBAIJAN

State Customs Committee

1. **H.E. Shahin BAGHIROV** - Chairman
2. **Mr. Dilaver FARZALIYEV** - Head of International Cooperation Department.

KAZAKHSTAN

State Revenue Committee under the Ministry of Finance

1. **H.E. Zhandos DUISEMBIEV** - Chairman
2. **Mr. Ermek KOZHABERGENOV** - Head of the International Cooperation Division
3. **Mr. Tanatar SERGAZIEV** - First Secretary, Embassy of Kazakhstan in Uzbekistan
4. **Mr. Galymzhan KYSTAUBAYEV** - Second Secretary, Embassy of Kazakhstan in Uzbekistan

KYRGYZSTAN

State Customs Service under the Ministry of Finance

1. **H.E. Samat ISABEKOV** - Chairman
2. **Mr. Ruslan BEISHENALIEV** - Head of the International Cooperation Department
3. **Mr. Yerlan JUMALIYEV** - Chief Inspector of the International Cooperation Department

TÜRKİYE

Ministry of Trade

1. **H.E. Sezai UÇARMAK** - Deputy Minister of Trade and Head of Customs Administration

2. **Mr. Ahmet Şevket DAYIOĞLU** - Head of Department
3. **Ms. Gizem ASMA ŞENEL** - Trade Expert
4. **Mr. Dr. Ömer KOÇ** - Advisor to the Deputy Minister

UZBEKISTAN

State Customs Committee

1. **H.E. Akmalkhuja MAVLONOV** - Chairman
2. **Mr. Rovshan RUZIEV** - Head of Central Customs Laboratory
3. **Mr. Ramil KONTYUKOV** - Deputy Head of Risk Targeting and Monitoring Department
4. **Mr. Elyor KHAKİMOV** - Head of Division, Department for Organization of Customs Control and Clearance
5. **Mr. Shukurullo MUMİNOV** - Deputy Head of Department of Strategic Planning and Simplification of Customs Procedures
6. **Mr. Abdukakhhor KHAMİDOV** - Deputy Head of ICT and Cyber Security Department
7. **Mr. Ilkhom PARDAEV** - Deputy Head of Entrepreneur Support Department
8. **Mr. Adil MAMAJONOV** - Head of Division, International Cooperation Department

HUNGARY

National Tax and Customs Administration

1. **Colonel, Mr. András János ZÓLYOM** - Head of Customs Department of the Central Management
2. **Ms. Ágota KRISKÓ** - Senior Officer for International Relations

SECRETARIAT

Organization of Turkic States

1. **H.E. Amb. Kubanychbek OMURALIEV** - Secretary General
2. **Dr. Mirvokhid AZIMOV** - Deputy Secretary General
3. **Mr. Shokirjon RAKHMATOV** - Project Director



PROTOCOL
OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE HEADS OF CUSTOMS
ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES

(11 December 2023, Tashkent)

The 9th meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was held on 11 December 2023 in Tashkent.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Akmalkhuja Mavlonov, Chairman of the Customs Committee under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan and attended by H.E. Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev, Secretary General of the OTS, H.E. Shahin Baghirov, Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Zhandos Duysembiev, Chairman of the State Revenue Committee of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Samat Isabekov, Chairman of the State Customs Service under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, H.E. Sezai Uçarmak, Deputy Minister of Trade and Head of Customs Administration of the Republic of Türkiye and Mr. András János Zólyom, Head of Customs Department of the Central Management of the NTCA, Hungary (*hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"*).

The agenda as adopted by the Parties and the list of participants of the meeting are attached herewith (Annex-I and Annex-II).

Reaffirming the purposes of the Organization of Turkic States as set out in the Nakhchivan Agreement; recalling the instructions of the Heads of States at the Samarkand and Astana Summits of the OTS and expressing the commitment to further expansion of mutually beneficial customs cooperation in line with the "Turkic World Vision-2040" and the "OTS Strategy for 2022-2026", the Parties agreed on the following:

1. The Parties commended the outcomes of the Multilateral Meeting of the Heads of Customs Authorities dedicated to the Project for simplifying transit customs procedure along the Trans-Caspian International "East-West" Middle Corridor using the "Single Window" principle (Data pipeline) hosted by the Azerbaijani side on 14-15 March 2023 in Baku, that led to the development of "Transit portal".

To that end, the Parties urged to expedite the work in this direction using the transit portal in line with the instructions of the Heads of State on regional integration through simplification, modernization, standardization and harmonization of customs procedures, further application of digital tools in customs, sharing best practices and conducting capacity building programs, as outlined in Samarkand Declaration of the OTS Summit. The

Parties are requested to support the work being conducted by the Working Group created to that end and facilitate the submission of requested information.

2. The Parties agreed on the importance of Silkroad initiative and Caravansarai project emphasising the need for concrete efforts to be made in the future to achieve more tangible results. To that end Turkish side in consultation with Secretariat will renovate the concept of the project and submit to the Parties for consideration until 1 March 2024.

3. The Parties stressed the necessity to accelerate the completion of internal procedures for the entry into force of the Agreement on the Establishment of Simplified Customs Corridor among the Governments of the Organization of Turkic States signed on 11 November 2022 in Samarkand.

The Parties welcomed the preparation by Uzbek side of the draft “Technical Conditions for Information Interaction between the Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States” under the said Agreement. The Parties instructed the experts in charge of issue to take necessary steps and hold experts’ meeting to discuss and finalize the draft Technical Conditions for its adoption at the next meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations. The Parties will submit their proposals and views on the draft Technical Conditions to the OTS Secretariat until 1 April 2024.

4. The Parties welcomed the initiative of the Uzbek side on enhancing the mechanism of the Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations. To that end, they instructed the Working Group to discuss a Regulation of the mechanism outlining more active engagement of the Customs Administrations in promoting the customs agenda within the OTS. Uzbek side will submit the draft Regulation to the Secretariat via diplomatic channels until the end of 2023.

5. The Parties welcomed the proposal of Uzbek side to develop a “Road Map” aimed at expanding the use of the “e-TIR” system for freight transport between the OTS countries and encouraging the further dissemination of international digital tools. To that end, the Customs Administrations of the Member States will submit to the Secretariat their proposals for drafting the “Road Map”. The Secretariat will convene online experts’ meeting to discuss and finalize the draft “Road Map” in January 2024.

6. The Parties expressed their readiness to establish cooperation between target (situational, command, analytical) centers of Customs Administrations. The Parties will define the scope of such cooperation and discuss the possibility of creating legal framework for further interaction among the institutions.

7. The Parties took note of the information from the Uzbek side on necessity of establishing cooperation among the customs laboratories and agreed to develop a draft Framework Agreement with the plan of concrete activities in this sphere.

8. The Parties agreed to organize the following activities in the course of 2024:

- Training programs on “Theoretical and practical bases of determining the customs value of goods imported to the Republic of Azerbaijan” and “Customs valuation of goods brought by the individuals on a preferential and simplified bases to the customs territory” to be hosted by Azerbaijani side;

- workshop on GPS tracking devices and vehicle tracking systems to be hosted by Turkish side in February 2024;

- capacity building program on implementation of “eTIR” to be co-hosted by Azerbaijani and Uzbek sides based on their successful implementation of the project in cooperation with the UNECE.

The Parties hosting the activities will submit the proposals on the dates of events to the Secretariat by 1 February 2024.

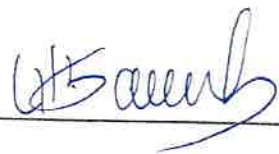
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10. The Parties welcomed the proposal of Hungarian side to host the Conference of Heads of Customs Administrations of the OTS in 2024 in Budapest. Hungarian side will submit the proposals on exact dates of Conference.

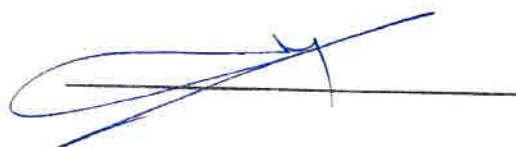
11. Parties expressed their gratitude to the Customs Committee under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan for hosting 9th meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations and appreciated Azerbaijani side for the proposal to host the 10th meeting the Heads of Customs Administrations in 2024 in Azerbaijan. The exact date of the meeting will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

Signed on 11 December 2023 in Tashkent, in a single original copy in the English language.

H.E. Shahin Baghirov
Chairman of the State Customs
Committee of the Republic of
Azerbaijan



H.E. Zhandos Duysembiev
Chairman of the State Revenue
Committee of the Ministry of Finance
of the Republic of Kazakhstan



H.E. Samat Isabekov
Chairman of the State Customs Service
under the Ministry of Finance of the
Republic of Kyrgyzstan



H.E. Sezai Uçarmak
Deputy Minister of Trade and Head of
Customs Administration of the
Republic of Türkiye



H.E. Akmalhuja Mavlonov
Chairman of the Customs Committee
under the Ministry of Economy and
Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan



H.E. Amb. Kubanychbek Omuraliev,
Secretary General of the Organization
of Turkic States





**XII MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON CUSTOMS COOPERATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES
(11 December 2023, Tashkent, Uzbekistan)**

AGREED MINUTES

The 12th Meeting of the Working Group on Customs Cooperation of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) was hosted by the Customs Committee under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 11 December 2023 in Tashkent with the participation of representatives of the Member and Observer States (hereinafter referred to as “Parties”). The agenda as adopted by the Parties and the list of participants of the meeting are attached herewith (Annex-I and Annex-II).

1. Implementing the decisions of the 8th Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States.

The Parties agreed to organize the following activities in the course of 2024:

- Training programs on “Theoretical and practical bases of determining the customs value of goods imported to the Republic of Azerbaijan” and “Customs valuation of goods brought by the individuals on preferential and simplified bases to the customs territory” to be hosted by Azerbaijani side;

- workshop on GPS tracking devices and vehicle tracking systems to be hosted by Turkish side in February 2024;

- capacity building program on implementation of “eTIR” to be co-hosted by Azerbaijani and Uzbek sides based on their successful implementation of the project in cooperation with the UNECE.

The Parties hosting the activities will submit the proposals on the dates of events to the Secretariat by 1 February 2024.

2. Discussion on the further implementation of the Agreement on the Establishment of Simplified Customs Corridor among the Governments of the Organization of Turkic States signed on 11 November 2022 in Samarkand

The Secretariat requested the Parties to facilitate the submission of their feedback concerning the proposal of Kazakh side on replacing the Kazakh text of the Agreement with the corrected version (*Secretariat’s Note No 2023-1000 dated 01 December 2023*).

The Secretariat also asked Kazakh and Kyrgyz sides to expedite the completion of the internal procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Agreement.

Uzbek side informed that the draft “Technical Conditions for Information Interaction between the Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States” was prepared under the said Agreement.

The Parties agreed to take necessary steps and hold experts` meetings to discuss and finalize the draft Technical Conditions for its adoption at the next meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations. The Parties will submit their proposals and views on the draft Technical Conditions to the OTS Secretariat until 1 April 2024.

3. Discussion on the implementation of the Silk Road Initiative and Caravanserai Project.

Turkish side requested to include the subject matter in the agenda of the current Working Group meeting and the 9th meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations given their importance and significance.

Meanwhile, the Kazakh side highlighted significant field trips to Member States' Border Crossing Points (BCPs) since 2012 under the project. They emphasized the necessity for more concrete efforts within the Silk Road Initiative and Caravanserai Project to achieve tangible outcomes in the future.

To that end, Turkish side agreed to renovate the concept of the project in consultation with the Secretariat and to submit it to the Parties for consideration by 1 March 2024.

4. Improving the activities of the Customs Administrations of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States.

Uzbek side proposed establishing the Council of Heads of Customs Administrations of the OTS as a main platform for coordination of activities and exchange of experience among the customs services and adopting its Regulation at the next meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations. The draft Regulation was prepared by Uzbek side.

The Parties appreciated the Uzbek side's initiative and agreed to review the draft Regulation upon its submission through diplomatic channels. The Uzbek side will transmit the draft Regulation to the Secretariat by the end of 2023.

Upon the request of the Parties, the Secretariat provided information stating that the founding documents of the OTS, namely the Nakhchivan Agreement and Rules of Procedure of the OTS, encompass provisions governing the procedures for convening meetings, preparing, and adopting meeting agendas and other documents.

5. Expanding the implementation of eTIR for freight transport between the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States.

The Parties welcomed the proposal of Uzbek side to develop a “Road Map” aimed at expanding the use of the “e-TIR” system for freight transport between the OTS countries and encouraging the further dissemination of international digital tools. To that end, the Parties will submit to the Secretariat their proposals for drafting the “Road Map”. The Secretariat will convene an online expert meeting to discuss and finalize the draft “Road Map” in January 2024.

6. Establishing cooperation in the field of customs risk management, as well as between the targeting (*situational, command, analytical*) centers of the Customs Administrations within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States.

The Parties expressed their readiness to establish cooperation between target (situational, command, analytical) centers of Customs Administrations. The Parties will define the scope of such cooperation and discuss the possibility of creating a legal framework for further interaction among the institutions.

7. Establishing the practice of interaction in the field of laboratory research.

The Parties took note of the information from the Uzbek side on the necessity of establishing cooperation among the customs laboratories and agreed to develop a draft Framework Agreement among them.

8. Determining the date and place for the next 10th meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States.

Upon the proposal of Azerbaijani side, the 10th meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations and 13th Meeting of the Working Group on Customs Cooperation will be convened in 2024 in Azerbaijan. The exact date of the meeting will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

9. Finalizing the draft Protocol of the 9th Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States.

The Parties discussed and finalised the draft Protocol of the 9th Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States, to be signed during the said meeting.

10. Any other business.

Upon the proposal of the Parties, it was agreed that the Secretariat would initiate a request for renewing the composition of the Working Group on Customs Cooperation to ensure effective coordination and implementation of decisions taken at the Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations.

It is hereby certified that this Minutes reflects the true content of the discussions as agreed upon by the Parties.



**Dr. Mirvokhid Azimov
Deputy Secretary General
of the Organization of Turkic States**



**XII MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON CUSTOMS COOPERATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES**

(11 December 2023, Tashkent, Uzbekistan)

AGENDA

1. Implementing the decisions of the 8th Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States.
2. Discussion on the further implementation of the Agreement on the Establishment of Simplified Customs Corridor among the Governments of the Organization of Turkic States signed on 11 November 2022 in Samarkand:
 - Completing internal procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Agreement;
 - Drafting technical conditions for the exchange of information under the Agreement.
3. Discussion on the implementation of the Silk Road Initiative and Caravanserai Project.
4. Improving the activities of the Customs Administrations of the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States.
5. Expanding the implementation of eTIR for freight transport between the Member States of the Organization of Turkic States.
6. Establishing cooperation in the field of customs risk management, as well as between the targeting (*situational, command, analytical*) centers of the Customs Administrations within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States.
7. Establishing the practice of interaction in the field of laboratory research.
8. Determining the date and place for the next 10th meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States.
9. Finalizing the draft Protocol of the 9th Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Organization of Turkic States.
10. Any other business.