

The Secretary General

Hon. Kunio Mikuriya  
Secretary General  
World Customs Organization  
Rue du Marche, 30  
B-1210 Brussels  
Belgium  
*By email: [kunio.mikuriya@wcoomd.org](mailto:kunio.mikuriya@wcoomd.org)*

Paris, 11 March 2022

Dear Secretary General,

I am writing to share with you a copy my correspondence earlier this week with Mairead McGuinness, European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union, requesting clarification regarding the treatment of customs transit procedures under the new European Union sanctions on the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus.

Recognising the importance of the World Customs Organization in guiding customs authorities in times of crisis, we very much welcome your statement on the Russia-Ukraine conflict of 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

With sanctions directly and indirectly impacting global trade, we see an imperative to ensure border operations are equipped with the necessary guidance to enable effective compliance with all restrictive measures – without unduly inhibiting legitimate trade flows.

Given our longstanding partnership, ICC stands ready to work together and provide any support or expertise that may be helpful to the WCO and national customs authorities in the context of the current crisis. I hope our collaboration can play a helpful role in avoiding any unnecessary – and potentially damaging – disruptions to global trade.

I am looking forward to our scheduled meeting in April in Brussels but do let me know if it would be helpful for us to connect virtually in the meantime given the urgency of the challenges posed by the Ukraine crisis.

Yours sincerely,



John W.H. Denton AO  
Secretary General  
International Chamber of Commerce

Enc: Letter to Mairead McGuinness, European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union