

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE
ON
CUSTOMS MATTERS
BETWEEN
THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CUSTOMS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF CUSTOMS AND TRADE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

The Directorate General of Customs of the Republic of Albania and the Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”);

IN THE SPIRIT OF the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters between the Government of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Turkey, signed in Ankara, Turkey, on 12 February 1998;

CONFIRMING firmly established cooperative relationship between the Parties, which shall be competent authorities for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU);

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of Customs’ role in protecting customs border and promoting economic growth by facilitating trade;

NOTING that the efforts of the Parties to exchange information contribute to promotion of bilateral flows of goods, services, capital and human resources;

Reaffirming the high value of intensive dialogue between the Parties in an effort to further collaborate in customs matters;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1) The Parties shall hereby establish a Joint Customs Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) between the Customs Administrations of the Republic of Albania and Republic of Turkey to promote cooperation in customs matters.

- 2) The Committee shall be guided by the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Turkey Regarding Mutual Assistance between their Customs Administrations signed in Ankara, Turkey, on 12 February 1998, and shall carry out its functions under the present MoU.
- 3) The development of cooperation in all aspects between the Customs Administrations of Albania and Turkey shall be conducted within the frame of the Committee and its working groups.

ARTICLE 2

FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

- 1) The Committee shall coordinate, encourage and develop cooperation in customs matters between the Parties as well as define the major areas and directions of cooperation.
- 2) The Committee coordinates cooperation between the Parties in the following areas:
 - a) Explore the ways and possibilities paving the way for enhanced cooperation on customs matters between the Parties;
 - b) Collaborate through joint efforts in order to facilitate, simplify and secure border-crossings and provide efficient customs formalities;
 - c) Share experiences on knowledge and best practices with regard to customs policies and procedures, enforcement functions, modernization programs, and supply chain security;
 - d) Development and improvement of the technologies used in customs procedures and customs examination with a view to ensuring the accuracy of data on goods moved;
 - e) Implementation of projects with a view to raising effectiveness of customs controls and facilitating customs procedures by exchanging information;
 - f) Cooperation in law enforcement in customs matters, prompt bilateral actions against smuggling and protection of intellectual property rights;
 - g) Other areas of cooperation in customs matters.

ARTICLE 3

STRUCTURE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

- 1) The Parties shall duly designate their members of the Committee and inform each other on any changes
- 2) The heads of the Customs Administrations of the two Parties shall be the co-Heads of the Committee;
- 3) The heads of the related structural divisions of the Customs Administrations shall be the heads of the working groups of the Committee, as appropriate.
- 4) Customs staff shall attend as members to the Committee and Working Group meetings, as appropriate.
- 5) The positions stipulated in paragraphs 2 and 3 above might be delegated to other members of the delegation provided that the other Party is duly informed.
- 6) Established Working Groups within the frame of the Committee shall be:
 - a) Albanian– Turkish working group on international cooperation and training,
 - b) Albanian– Turkish working group on cooperation in law enforcement in customs matters,
 - c) Albanian– Turkish working group on risk management and customs control,
 - d) Albanian– Turkish working group on information technology.
- 7) Other working groups might be established additionally for the development of cooperation and in case of necessity to cooperate in other areas.
- 8) The working groups shall be guided by the present MoU and the decisions adopted at the meetings of the Committee and the working groups shall report regularly to the Committee on the results of their work.

ARTICLE 4

MEETINGS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

- 1) The meetings of the Committee shall be held alternately in the Republic of Albania and in the Republic of Turkey once a year.

- 2) The date of the meeting and the subject of the discussions shall be negotiated by the Parties at least a month before the meeting. Other issues might be proposed by the Heads of the Committee and might be raised at the discussions.
- 3) If necessary, each Party may invite the representatives of other governmental bodies and experts related to the issues discussed within the Committee to participate in meetings.
- 4) The representatives of the Parties might hold consultations on urgent issues between the regular meetings of the Committee and adopt joint decisions on the issue discussed and incorporate it into the Protocol of the nearest meeting of the Committee.
- 5) Every decision adopted at the meetings of the Committee shall be put on record which shall be signed by the Heads at the end of the meetings of the Committee.
- 6) Working language of the Committee and its sub-bodies shall be the official languages of the Parties and English, as appropriate. Any document produced by the Committee shall be in English. However, documents in the official languages of the Parties may be produced solely or accompanying the English version provided that a mutual consent consists.

ARTICLE 5

THE SECRETARIAT

- 1) The respective divisions of the Customs Administrations responsible for external affairs shall undertake the secretarial duties for the Committee.
- 2) The Secretariat shall provide the administrative support for the conduct of meetings.
- 3) The Secretariat shall retain the routine work of the Committee and coordinate the work of the sub-bodies of the Committee.
- 4) The representatives of the Secretariat from the Parties shall be in regular contact with each other and may hold meetings in between the Committee meetings if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE 6

FINANCIAL EXPENSES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

- 1) The expenses on preparation and realization of meetings of the Committee shall be incurred by the host Party. The travel expenses of the participants of the Committee meetings shall be covered by the Parties themselves.
- 2) Each Party incurs all necessary expenses related to the activities of its members of the Committee.

ARTICLE 7

OTHER AGREEMENTS

The provisions of present MoU will not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties resulting from other international agreements to which they are Parties.

ARTICLE 8

SETTLEMENT OF DISAGREEMENTS

- 1) Any disagreement that may arise from the interpretation or application of this MoU shall be resolved by negotiations and consultations between the Parties. Unresolved issues through such process shall be settled via diplomatic channels.
- 2) Each Party may request consultation from the other Party regarding the interpretation, implementation and amendment of this MoU or the settlement of any possible dispute that may occur. The consultations to be conducted between the Parties shall start within 20 days following the reception of the written request, unless otherwise decided.

ARTICLE 9

ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Any additions and amendments may be made to this MoU by mutual consent of the Parties. Such additions and amendments shall be made in a form of separate Protocols being an integral part of this MoU and shall enter into force in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of this MoU.

ARTICLE 10

ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND TERMINATION

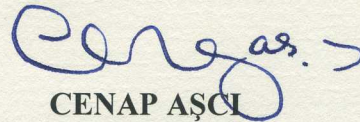
- 1) The present MoU shall enter into force on the thirtieth day of the receipt of the last written notification by which the Parties notify each other, through diplomatic channels, of the completion of their internal legal procedures required for the entry into force of the concerned document.
- 2) This MoU shall remain in force for ten (10) years from the date of its entry into force and shall be renewable for ten years unless one of the Parties notifies the other in writing through diplomatic channels of its intention to terminate the MoU 6 months prior to the date of expiration.
- 3) Either Party can terminate this MoU by sending a written notification of her intention to terminate the MoU. In such case, the MoU will be terminated in three months after the date of such notification.
- 4) The termination of this MoU shall not affect the activities and projects already in progress or executed.
- 5) Done in Ankara, on 06.04.2016, in two original copies, each in Albanian, Turkish and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.
- 6) In case of divergence of interpretation of this MoU, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE DIRECTORATE
GENERAL OF CUSTOMS OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**



**PRANVERA FAGU (BEHUSHI)
DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF
CUSTOMS AND TRADE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**



**CENAP AŞCI
UNDERSECRETARY**