



SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

NS0025E1

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16th Session
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O. Eng.

Brussels, 8 December 2000.

WCO WEBSITE DISCUSSION FORUM ON CUSTOMS LABORATORY ISSUES

(Item III.3 on Agenda)

Reference document :

NS0014E2, par. 6 (SSC/15 – Report)

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 15th Session, the Scientific Sub-Committee discussed “The Role of Customs Laboratories in Member Administrations”. One of the most important outcomes of that discussion was the proposal to open a page concerning Customs Laboratory matter on the WCO Members Website.

II. SECRETARIAT COMMENTS

2. During the intersession, the Secretariat has re-arranged the WCO Members Web site, to include provisions necessary for the exchange of information among its users (“discussion forum”). The provisions, which will hopefully be available from 1 January 2001, include the following features :
 - (i) Login through Members Website;
 - (ii) User-ID and password protected (same as for login onto the Members Website); and
 - (iii) Search function for content.
3. Discussion fora will be allocated to the various Sub-Directorates of the Secretariat, one of the fora being set aside especially for issues related to Customs laboratories.
4. With respect to the function of the discussion forum, the Secretariat would like to stress that it will **not** replace the formal procedures, such as publishing the Sub-Committee’s agenda and other documents, receiving discussion notes to be published in Sub-Committee’s documents, etc. At the same time, the Secretariat feels that, unless otherwise indicated by the provider, contributions would not reflect the official view of the administration, but should rather be taken as the provider’s personal view.

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5. It should also be noted that the content of the discussion forum will be reviewed regularly. Therefore, the forum will not and cannot be used as a database. It will, however, be possible to copy the messages and to use the texts in another ADP environment, e.g., in word processing, spreadsheet or database programmes.
6. Finally, the Secretariat will review the use of the discussion forum, and will make any changes necessary to optimise its use.

III. CONCLUSIONS

7. The Sub-Committee is invited to take note of the developments vis-à-vis the creation of a discussion forum on the WCO Members Website, and to use the forum as appropriate.
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