

Panel 3:

DG TAXUD:

Conformity Assessment Systems:

EU Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) vs C-TPAT (US)

Dr. Alois J. Sieber, HoU,
EC, JRC IPSC, Ispra, Italy

**ANSI Homeland Security Standards Panel:
9th Annual Plenary Meeting: U.S. – European Collaboration on Security Standardisation Systems,
November 9th – 10th, 2010, Arlington, USA**

- DG TAXUD: Objectives in Conformity Assessment

- DG TAXUD: Cooperation Activities with US

- Look ahead

- ❑ Mutual recognition of security standards and trade partnership programmes, like AEO and C-TPAT, with our main trading partners, as promoted by the WCO SAFE ^[1] Framework to secure and Facilitate Global Trade, is a key element of the EU efforts to strengthen the end-to-end security of international supply chains.



[1]: WCO SAFE: World Customs Organization

- ❑ Aim: to enhance supply chain security and to facilitate trade through focusing on real risks and granting substantial, equal and reciprocal benefits to reliable international partners and economic operators



- **June 2010:** DG Deffaa and Commissioner Bersin **signed a document** entitled "*Final Steps Towards the Implementation of Mutual Recognition Between the United States and the European Union*"
- Document: sets a **timetable of activities** that must be completed successfully in order to **fully implement mutual recognition**



- ❑ One of the **critical elements** of the final steps document:
the creation of a "**Work Program**" which sets the procedures for a series of
 - ❑ up to 27 joint validation visits in the EU and
 - ❑ up to 5 joint validations in US split over 2 phases



- ❑ work program foresees the joint validations split into 2 phases:
 - ❑ first phase will cover joint validations in 10 to 13 EU Member States and should conclude by the end of February 2011
 - ❑ At the conclusion of phase 1:
 - ❑ a review meeting will be held and subject to the outcome of the first phase the US will decide how many additional joint validations are required in the EU (not to exceed a total of 27) and
 - ❑ the EU will decide how many joint validations will be required in the US (not to exceed a total of 5).
- ❑ An ad-hoc working group of EC and US IT experts is also foreseen in the work program



□ Current Status:

- **proposal** for a Decision of the JCCC on Mutual Recognition was provided **by TAXUD** to CBP on **2 August**
- **response from CBP** was provided on the **8 October** and is currently subject to consideration by TAXUD services
- **Intensifying work** on this text seems needed in order to meet the objective agreed in June to reach an understanding on the **Mutual Recognition Decision by the end of October 2010**



Collaboration across borders

- The signing of the Mutual Recognition Decision is **expected in early 2011**
- AEO and C-TPAT **benefits** will only be activated **after successful completion of the joint validations and IT solutions** foreseen in the work program
- This should take place **no later than the 31 October 2011**

Thank you for your attention !

Questions?