

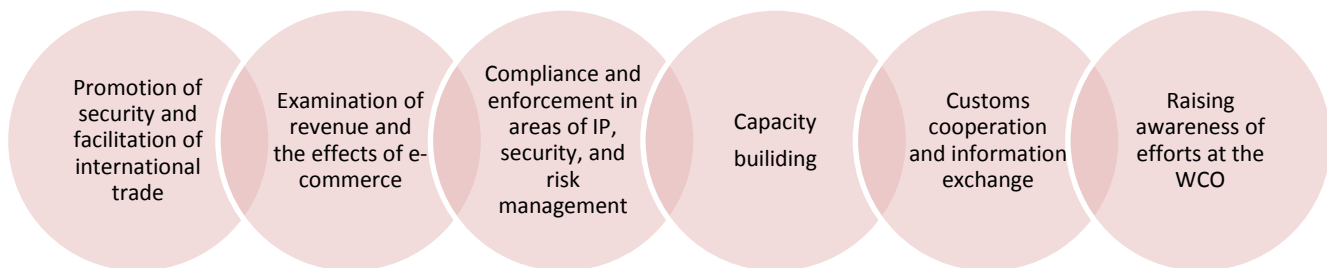
The World Customs Organization Private Sector Consultative Group

BPE Global is honored to serve under the American Association for Exporters and Importers (AAEI) flag in the newly reconstituted Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG) at the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels, Belgium. BPE Global and AAEI attended the first PSCG meeting on October 11, 2015 as well as the meetings on the Trade Facilitation Agreement Working Group and the Permanent Technical Committee.



Andrea Appell
Director

The Private Sector Consultative Group, commonly referred to as the PSCG, was originally established in 2006 to advise the World Customs Organization on the progress and issues relating to implementation of the SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework). In October 2015 the PSCG was relaunched with the overarching goal of ensuring a diverse view on trade facilitation via input from the private sector. The October meetings kicked off with a presentation by WCO Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya on the issues currently to the fore on the Organization's agenda. Specifically, Secretary General Mikuriya identified six intertwined pillars supporting the overall WCO objectives:



- Pillar 1 aims to promote the security and facilitation of international trade, including simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures. This pillar is supported via work with other partner government agencies stationed at borders.
- Pillar 2 examines revenue and the effects of e-commerce. Work in this area encourages partnerships and a flow of information between Customs and Tax authorities.
- Pillar 3 supports continued compliance and enforcement in the areas of intellectual property, security, and risk management of supply chains.
- Pillar 4 works towards capacity building in organizational development. This pillar is supported by the strategic management of Customs agencies, increased stakeholder engagement, and ensuring integrity at Customs.
- Pillar 5 builds customs cooperation and information exchange between Customs authorities as well as between customs authorities and business. This pillar is of particular importance as it supports many of the other WCO objectives.



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- Pillar 6 aims to raise awareness of efforts at the WCO. Supporting awareness of the WCO is achieved through groups like the PSCG.

To complement the work on the WCO's agenda, the PSCG formulated the following four subcommittees tasked with tackling projects in its area of focus to strengthen the six pillars outlined by the Secretary General.

- Performance Measurement
- Revenue / Fraud / Illicit Trade (including exchange of information between countries and Including IP/rights holders issues)
- Flow and Quality of Data
- e-Commerce

BPE Global is participating in the Performance Measurement subcommittee; AAEL is participating in the e-Commerce subcommittee. The PSCG is scheduled to meet twice per year and the subcommittees will meet independently as required by each team. We at BPE Global believe that representing the private sector at the WCO is essential to supporting our customers globally. We will provide updates to the work of the PSCG as well as the subcommittees as we move forward.

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