

### Developments in Customs and Foreign Trade Law

In the forty years since founding of the European Customs union, customs law has developed at a remarkable pace. A customs union does not only require a single customs territory, abolition of internal customs duties and a common external customs tariff but also a modern, harmonized and uniformly applied customs law. The European Customs Law Conference in Luxembourg (that also celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the EFA) investigates the development of European customs law under the aspects "What was good?", "What was bad?" and "The Way Forward." The political future of the Customs Union will also be profoundly affected by the imminent introduction of the Modernized Customs Code (MCC).

### Jurisprudence of the ECJ

The European Court of Justice functions as "the guardian of the Community." This aspect forms the subject of several presentations and will be examined in detail using customs debt as an example. Related aspects include the Commission's imposition of financial charges on Member States that can lead to Customs administrations making controversial decisions in relation to industry as well as the MCC's response to the development of jurisprudence.

### AEO Status

The concept of the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) has already been dealt with at a number of Customs Law Conferences. However, there is still a need for information on the way that companies and administrations have implemented the AEO as well as their experiences in working with it. Presentations will assess the status of the AEO in Europe, using benchmarking and practical reports from industry, administration and consultants. Another interesting topic is the mutual recognition of the AEO at international level.

### Proposal for a Directive on the general system of excise duties

In order to introduce an IT system that supervises movements of goods subject to excise tax under suspensive arrangements between the Member States, the Directive concerning the General Arrangements for Excise Duty must be amended. In this respect, changes are to be made to the suspensive procedure (including irregular departures) and free movement that take account of legal developments.

Sponsor:



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*Prof. Dr. Peter Witte*, Federal University of Applied Sciences, Department of Finance, Münster  
*Christoph B. Wolf*, Solicitor, German Chamber of Trade and Industry, Berlin / Bonn

**Note:** The conference there will be simultaneous interpreters on hand for German/English and French; the conference will be recorded on DVD and published.

**Venue:** Chamber of Commerce, Luxembourg, Centre de Conférences, 7, Rue Alcide de Gasperi, Luxembourg Kirchberg

**Venue Office:** EFA: 5 June: 8.30 - 18.00 + 6 June: 8.00 - 13.00

**Conference fee:** 540,- € for members of EFA, ASC, EVO, ODASCE, 440,- € (incl. documentation, DVD recording, Compendium, buffet, refreshments)

**Bank Details.:** Postbank Dortmund, sort-code 440 100 46, acc. no.: 53 33 469, IBAN: DE 03 4401 0046 0005333469, BIC: PBNKDEFF Erste Bank, Wien, sort-code 20 111, acc. no.: 300 502 32864

**Information and Registration (also available online):**

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Universitätsstr. 14-16, D-48143 Münster

Tel.: +49 (0)251/ 83 275 75

Fax: +49 (0)251/ 83 275 62

E-mail: office@efa-muenster.de

Homepage: <http://www.efa-muenster.de>

**The number of participants is limited; confirmation of registration will be sent to you.**

**Accommodation:**

**The following hotels have reserved rooms under „EFA“:**

**Sofitel Luxembourg Europe\*\*\*\*** (SR: 226€, DR: 245€, incl. breakfast)

6 rue du Fort Niedergruenewald, 2015 Luxembourg

Tel.: (+352) 43 77 61 and fax: (+352) 42 50 91

**Novotel Luxembourg Centre\*\*\*\*** (SR: 200€, DR: 210€, incl. breakfast); 35 Rue Du Laboratoire, 1911 Luxembourg

Tel.: (+352) 24 87 81 and fax: (+352) 26 48 02 24

**Novotel Luxembourg Kirchberg\*\*\*\*** (SR: 180€, DR: 190€, incl. breakfast); 4 rue Fort Niedergruenewald, 2015 Luxembourg

Tel.: (+352) 42 98 481 and fax: (+352) 43 86 58

**Grand Hotel Alfa Luxembourg\*\*\*\*** (SR: 178€, DR: 196€, incl. breakfast); 16, Place de la gare, 1616 Luxembourg

Tel.: (+352) 42 22 111 and fax: (+352) 42 22 22

# 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European Customs Union

## 20<sup>th</sup> European Customs Conference 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008, Luxembourg

Organized by

European Forum for Foreign Trade,  
Excise and Customs e.V.

Supported by



AUSSENWIRTSCHAFTS-AKADEMIE



Venue:

Chambre de Commerce  
Centre de Conférences  
7, Rue Alcide de Gasperi  
Luxembourg Kirchberg

## Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2008

18.00 **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EFA and European Customs Law Conference**

Reception in the Philharmonie, 1, place de l'Europe

20.00 **"Music without Barriers"**, Ceremonial concert of the Luxembourg customs capella  
Philharmonie Luxembourg, 1, place de l'Europe  
**(separate registration required)**

Alternatively

20.00 **Social Evening in Papila Aromarestaurant**  
1, place de l'Europe

## Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2008

Chairman: *Prof. Dr. Peter Witte*, Federal University of Applied Sciences, Münster

9.30 **Opening Speech**

*Prof. Dr. Hans-Michael Wolfgang*, EFA

**Welcoming Speech**

*André C.N. Friden*, President of the Luxembourg Customs Union (LDG), Luxembourg

9.45 **The Task of the ECJ – Guardian of the Community**

*Prof. Dr. Thomas von Danwitz*, ECJ Judge, Luxembourg

10.15 Coffee Break

11.00 **The Jurisprudence of the ECJ on Customs Debt**

*Dr. Klaus-Peter Müller-Eiselt*, Presiding Judge at the BFH, Munich

11.30 **Customs Debt under the Modernized Customs Code**

*Prof. Dr. Peter Witte*, Fed. Uni. of Applied Sciences

12.00 **Who speaks to whom in the future? – New Communication Structures in the Federal Customs Administration**

*Dr. Horst Seelig*, President of the Federal Fiscal Directorate for the South-East, Nuremberg

12.30 **Discussion**

Moderator: *Prof. Dr. Reginhard Henke*, Fed. Uni. of Applied Sciences, Münster

13.00 Lunch

14.00 **The AEO Benchmark in the EU**

**The Implementation of the AEO in Germany**

*Josef Herrmann*, Executive Officer, AEO Contact Office, Nuremberg

14.20 **The AEO in Practice: Reports from Member States**

*Henri Nimax*, Vice-Departmental Director, Luxembourg Customs and Excise Directorate

*Dr. António Brigas Afonso*, Ministry of Finance, Lisbon

*Carsten Willemoes Jørgensen*, School of Business, University of Aarhus

*Tadeusz Senda*, Ministry of Finance, Warsaw

*Jochen Schmidt*, PricewaterhouseCoopers AG, Hamburg

15.20 Coffee Break

16.00

**Status of AEO Mutual Recognition**

*Dr. Susanne Aigner*, Senior Member of the Administrative Council, Europ. Commission, TAXUD, Brussels

*Serge Gummy*, Departmental Leader, Swiss Senior Customs Directorate, Bern

*Michael Mullen*, Assistant Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Washington D.C.

16.45

**Discussion**

Moderator *Dr. Bettina Vogl-Lang*, Group Leader Customs and Excise, BMF, Vienna

End 18.00

18.30

**Reception by The Honourable Paul Helminger, Mayor of the City of Luxembourg**

**"Grand Theatre"**, Robert Schuman Group

19.30

**Finale in the Old Town of Luxembourg**

## Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2008

9.00

**Current Amendment of the Directive Harmonizing the Structure of Excise Duties**

*Dr. Harald Jatzke*, Judge at the Federal Fiscal Court

9.20

**Discussion**

Moderator: *Prof. Dr. Sabine Schröer-Schallenberg*, Fed. Uni. of Applied Sciences, Münster

9.30

**Financial Charges Imposed by the European Commission: Administrative Errors at Industry's Expense?**

*Alexander Schoenmakers*, Senior Executive Officer, BMF, Bonn

9.50

**Podium discussion and statements**

*Eddy Weyns*, Head of Department, European Commission, OLAF, Brussels

*Dr. Andrea Reuter*, Chief Executive Manager of the Customs Office St. Pölten Krems Wiener Neustadt

*Dr. Michael Tervooren*, PricewaterhouseCoopers AG, Düsseldorf

Moderator: *Dr. Lothar Gellert*, Senior Government Official, BMF

10.30

Coffee Break

11.30

**The Benefits of a Risk-based Strategy for Securing and Facilitating Trade**

*Michael Mullen*, Assistant Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Washington D.C.

11.50

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European Customs Union–**  
What is Good; What is Bad?

*Reinhard Fischer*, Deutsche Post World Net, Bonn

*Jürgen Böer*, Schott AG, BDI Customs Work Group

12.20

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the European Customs Union Quo**  
Vadis?

*Michael Lux*, Head of Department, European Commission, TAXUD, Brussels

12.40

**Discussion and Closing Speech**

Moderator: *Prof. Dr. Hans-Michael Wolfgang*, EFA

**Registration by fax: 0049 (0)251 83 27561 Please note that seating capacity at the Chamber of Commerce is limited.**

[ ] I herewith make a binding confirmation of my attendance at the 20<sup>th</sup> European Customs Law Conference in Luxembourg between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

[ ] I would like to book .....ticket(s) for the concert "Music without barriers" at 30 Euros each.

[ ] I am a member of the EFA/EVO/DASCE/ACS

Name

First Name

Company, authority etc.

Title, position

Street/Postal Code (business/private)

Town/City (business/private)

Date

Signature

E-Mail