

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL**  
**CONCERNING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CONVENTION ESTABLISHING**  
**A CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL**

(30 June 2007)

THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL,

RECOGNIZING the increasingly significant role played by Customs or Economic Unions in world affairs, and particularly in matters pertaining to trade,

NOTING that certain Customs or Economic Unions are active participants in the work of the Organization,

ACKNOWLEDGING the legitimate desire of one Customs or Economic Union to place this participation on a formal footing by becoming a Member of the Organization, and the possibility that others may wish to do so in the future,

BEARING IN MIND that in order for a Customs or Economic Union to become a Member, an amendment must be made to the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council,

BEARING IN MIND also the provisions of Article XX of the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council, concerning the amendment of that Convention,

RECOMMENDS to all Contracting Parties to the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council, the following amendments to that Convention :

*Amend Article VIII (a) of the Convention to read as follows :*

**ARTICLE VIII**

- (a) With the exception of Customs or Economic Union Members, for which the Council shall make specific provisions,** each Member of the Council shall have one vote except that a Member shall not have a vote on any question relating to the interpretation, application or amendment of any of the Conventions referred to in Article III (d) which is in force and which does not apply to that Member.

*Insert a new sub-paragraph (d) in Article XVIII of the Convention, which will then read as follows :*

ARTICLE XVIII

- (a) The Government of any State which is not a signatory to the present Convention may accede thereto as from 1 April 1951.
- (b) Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which shall notify all signatory and acceding Governments and the Secretary General of each such deposit.
- (c) The present Convention shall come into force for any acceding Government on the deposit of its instrument of accession, but not before it comes into force in accordance with paragraph (a) of Article XVII.
- (d) **Any Customs or Economic Union may become, in accordance with paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above, a Contracting Party to this Convention. Any request from a Customs or Economic Union to become a Contracting Party shall first be submitted to the Council for approval. For the purposes of this Convention, "Customs or Economic Union" means a Union constituted by, and composed of, States which has competence to adopt its own regulations that are binding on those States in respect of matters governed by this Convention, and has competence to decide, in accordance with its internal procedures, to accede to this Convention.**

REQUESTS Contracting Parties to the Convention establishing a Customs Co-operation Council which accept this Recommendation to notify the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in writing, of their acceptance.