

Organised by: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP); British Standards Institution (BSI)

Session Type: Panel Discussion

Session Title

Green Customs: Advancing Sustainable Cross-Border Trade through Facilitation, Innovation and Standards

Session Description

National Customs administrations are on the very frontlines of international trade: the first to engage with goods entering a country's flow of commerce, and the final threshold when products exit as exports. As recognized in the first chapter of WTO's 2023 publication "Trade Policy Tools for Climate Action," it follows that Customs administrations have a vital role to play in modernizing trade facilitation capabilities and leveraging their extensive influence over international supply chain standards and processes in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation, through the reduction of trade-generated GHG emissions and the elimination of environmental trade crimes. Moreover, the exponential increase in trade measures and business mandates with a nexus to climate and environment is requiring ever greater coordination between Customs and multi-sectoral stakeholders regarding the development and harmonization of international standards and regulation.

This high-level panel will provide the opportunity for Trade and Investment House participants to learn about how Customs entities and their standards organization partners are proactively aligning to support emissions reduction, climate resiliency, and enforcement of environmental laws; facilitate and streamline legal trade and advance circular economy mechanisms; tackle the supply chain and infrastructure resiliency issues exacerbated by climate change; as well as the innovative tools and technologies that can undergird these efforts and remove barriers to the global trade community's adoption of sustainable practices. Green Customs is still an underrecognized tool in the arsenal of global climate and environmental action; one key outcome of this panel will be to illuminate and foster cross-sectoral discussion around the unique ways that Customs can and should be integrated into global conversations about climate and environment.

Proposed Speakers and Moderator

- Daan van der Wekken, Head of Sustainability, British Standards Institution (BSI) (*Moderator*)
- Ms. Gael Grooby, Acting Director, Tariff and Trade Affairs, World Customs Organization (*Opening Remarks*)
- Mr. Shahin Baghirov, Chairman, State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Mr. Silvio Dulinsky, Deputy Secretary General, International Standards Organization (ISO)
- Ms. AnnMarie Highsmith, Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade, U.S. Customs and Border Protection