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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **TRAINING SEMINAR FOR TRAINERS ON “UNDER-INVOICING: VALUATION RISK, FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES AND ECONOMIC IMPACT. SCHEMES FOR CONTROLS” ROME, 24 - 25 MARCH 2011**

A training seminar for trainers on “Under-Invoicing: Valuation risk, financial consequences and economic impact. Schemes for Controls”, organized by the Italian Customs Agency, was held in Rome, at the Aran Hotel Mantegna, on 24 - 25 March 2011.

The aim of this seminar was to raise awareness among all the customs administrations as regards this illicit phenomenon, highly prejudicial for the VAT and duty revenue losses it causes, that have been reported since long by Italy and by the latter combated with legal tools allowing to more easily obtain information, also through the use of penalties to be imposed on those traders who are not willing to provide it.

The meeting was attended by representatives of some 60 WCO member countries and opened by Mr. Giuseppe Peleggi, Director General of the Italian Customs Agency. The works were conducted by Mr. Giuseppe Favale, Director of the International Relations.

Of particular relevance were the speeches of Mr. Ian Cremer, representative of the WCO Secretariat, who explained the Revenue Package programme, a programme which WCO is being implementing to improve and make duty collection more efficient, and of the representatives of the European Commission – Mr. Peter Kovac, Mr. John Malone, Mr. Marco Nivolo and Mr. Peter – that showed how to share experiences among the countries in search of new ways for a more efficient and effective cooperation.

Mr. Rocco Burdo, Head of the Intelligence Unit of the Customs Central Antifraud Office, provided a detailed explanation of the methods used in Italy to assess the real value of goods presented to customs.

The meeting was also attended by Mr. Zouhair Chofri, Director General of Moroccan Customs and WCO Vice-President for North Africa and Middle East region.

All the participants in the seminar have shared the need for greater co-operation and, accordingly, information exchange between the countries and have shown great appreciation for the organization of this event.

