

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE ITALIAN CUSTOMS AND MONOPOLIES
AGENCY AND THE GEORGIA REVENUE SERVICE OF THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE OF GEORGIA CONCERNING
BILATERAL COOPERATION IN CUSTOMS MATTERS**

The Italian Customs and Monopolies Agency and the Georgia Revenue Service (Tax and Customs Administration, SPS Border Control Agency) of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia, hereinafter referred to as the Customs Authorities,

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance to enhance adequate information and sharing of experience between the Italian Customs and Monopolies Agency and the Georgia Revenue Service (Tax and Customs administration, SPS Border Control Agency) of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to strengthen international cooperation in the field of customs legislation;

CONSIDERING that the enforcement action against customs offences can be made more effective through a close cooperation between the two Customs Authorities;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to improve mutual understanding of customs legislation, procedures and practices in force in the Italian Republic and in Georgia;

CONSIDERING the necessity and the importance to further develop bilateral cooperation between the two Parties, so as to ensure effective and targeted controls as well as security and facilitation to legitimate trade between Italy and Georgia;

RECOGNIZING the importance of exchanging best practices, experiences and information between the Parties;

AGREEING to formalize this Memorandum of Understanding on operational cooperation as the guiding document for bilateral cooperation;

Through open and friendly discussion :

Came to a mutual understanding on the following

Article 1
Scope of the cooperation

1. The Parties recognise the need to cooperate in customs related matters, according to the competences assigned to the Customs and Monopolies Agency (Italian Republic) by the European Union and national legislation and the Georgia Revenue Service (Georgia), by the national legislation, in force.
2. In accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "Memorandum"), the cooperation between the Parties shall aim at:
 - a) strengthening customs controls;
 - b) exchanging experience, best practices and information to optimize law-enforcement environment and to facilitate legitimate trade;
 - c) supporting Customs Authorities to enhance the effectiveness of customs controls.

Article 2
Forms of cooperation

In pursuance of this Memorandum, in order to share significant operational experience in the fields of customs enforcement and controls and to improve trade, the Parties agree to carry out the following activities:

- Meetings between the Heads of customs administrations;
- Study Visits and/or Internships for customs officers;

- Joint customs activities to support trade facilitation;
- Technical assistance in jointly identified subjects.

Article 3

Practical Implementation

1. The coordination of the implementation of the Memorandum is assigned to the International Cooperation and Technical Assistance Office of the International Relations Central Directorate of the Customs and Monopolies Agency (Italian Republic) and the International Relations Department of the Georgia Revenue Service (Georgia);
2. At the end of each two year cooperation activities, the Parties will take turns to hold a meeting, in order to discuss and evaluate the cooperation activities carried out.
3. The financial costs resulting from the implementation of the Memorandum will be borne by the Parties, compatibly with the financial resources available within their respective budgets.
4. Each Party will bear the mission travel and accommodation costs for its delegation itself or with the assistance of the donor organizations.

Article 4

Confidentiality

1. The Parties understand the need to protect information, content of communications and documents to be made available to the experts involved in the cooperation activities in the framework of the Memorandum in accordance with the legislation of the States of the Parties.
2. This Memorandum will not prejudice any obligations, current or upcoming, on matters of customs legislation arising, for the Italian Republic, from being a

Member State of the European Union and, for Georgia, from being a contracting Party of intergovernmental Agreements already stipulated or to be stipulated.

Article 5

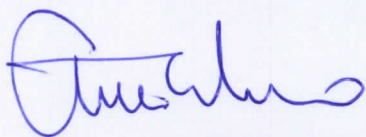
Final provisions

1. This Memorandum is not an international Agreement and does not create binding obligations for the Parties.
2. The present Memorandum becomes effective from the date of its signature.
3. The present Memorandum will be effective for a period of two years. The Memorandum will be automatically prolonged for the next two years until one of the Parties will inform the other Party not later than six months till the end of the first and next two year period on its intention to terminate the Memorandum.
4. The provisions of this Memorandum may be amended or changed only with the prior mutual consent of the Parties.

This Memorandum is made in two originals, in English language, .

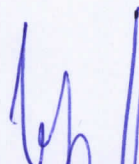
Done in Tbilisi on 26 January 2017.

For the Customs and Monopolies
Agency
(Republic of Italy)



Enrico MARTINO
Director of International Relations
Central Directorate

For the Georgia Revenue Service
(Georgia)



Samson URIDIA
Head of International Relations
Department



**AGENZIA DELLE DOGANE
E DEI MONOPOLI**

Prot. 12033/RU

Roma, 31 gennaio 2017

COMUNICATO

TBILISI: FIRMATO MEMORANDUM DI INTESA TRA L'AGENZIA E L'AMMINISTRAZIONE DOGANALE DELLA GEORGIA

Siglato a Tbilisi dal Direttore Centrale Relazioni internazionali dell'Agenzia delle Dogane e dei Monopoli Dr. Enrico Martino e dal Direttore Relazioni internazionali del Servizio Doganale e Fiscale della Georgia Samson Uridia un Memorandum di Intesa per il rafforzamento della cooperazione amministrativa tra le rispettive Amministrazioni doganali.

L'iniziativa ha avuto luogo nell'ambito delle celebrazioni organizzate in Georgia per l'evento della Giornata internazionale delle Dogane, promossa annualmente dall'Organizzazione mondiale delle Dogane (OMD).

Il Memorandum intende contribuire - nel quadro generale dello scambio di informazioni, esperienze ed incontri, volti a favorire il commercio legittimo - all'espletamento di controlli doganali più efficaci, da attuarsi anche mediante gli strumenti previsti a livello europeo (Taix e Twinnings).

La collaborazione tra le due Amministrazioni doganali intende, inoltre, fornire un importante supporto all'ulteriore sviluppo delle relazioni commerciali ed agli investimenti italiani in Georgia, consolidando altresì le relazioni bilaterali tra i due Paesi.

UFFICIO DEL DIRETTORE

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