



45th Committee Congress of the Union of Finance Personnel in Europe (UFE) in Lisbon from 20 – 24 September 2010

Resolution

UFE is the only European unionised representation of interests of the employees of the tax and customs administrations from all career groups. It organises more than 400,000 individual members in 32 European member unions from 19 countries.

The Customs Commission of UFE, which consists of representatives from trade unions from customs areas all over Europe, has analysed and discussed the current situation with regard to the actual challenges and threats, which the customs administrations in the respective member states are currently confronted with. The delegates of the 45 Committee Congress of UFE recommended the member unions, at the suggestion of its Customs Commission, the following resolution towards the Commission, the European Parliament and for their own initiatives.

The Committee of UFE supports the implementation of the modernised customs codex and the adoption and implementation of the official customs codex regulations as well as the “Customs Programme 2013” in principle.

The customs administrations and areas of the tax administrations entrusted with customs tasks play a fundamental role for the protection of the interests of the community and the people in the member states. UFE, however, has noticed that the customs administrations in Europe, despite any efforts of the commission, are not yet working efficiently and effectively, as if they were one single customs administration. Therefore, UFE supports respective initiatives of the Commission and the European Parliament.

Aggravated by the financial crisis, UFE points out with great concern, that due to the budgetary situation in the member states, the tasks of customs in an increasingly globalised economy have to be fulfilled by less and less personnel. This has to be stopped at long last.

UFE requests the governments of the member states to take the determinations of the European Court of Auditors in its Special Report 1/2010 on the controls of simplified customs procedures seriously and to provide for effective controls. Where the responsibility of the state cannot be replaced by the trust in authorised economic operators (AEO), compliance has its boundaries. Goods can only be controlled

effectively at the time of import and export handling and not with the use of information technology or a later audit.

Therefore, UFE requests:

- a public status and uniform basic training for all employees of the customs administrations;
- the payment of the personnel must be the basis for independent and loyal employees and provide for their social security in society;
- the stop of staff reductions and the guarantee to employ the personnel required to fulfil the tasks; guarantee of social minimum standards for organisational changes;
- the guarantee of uniform customs controls and a simultaneous, uniform approach in all member states to avoid distortion of the competition; in particular, the conditions for the authorisation of the economic operators has to be regulated in a uniform and binding manner;
- the introduction and binding application of uniform risk management;
- the determination of binding quotas for the inspection of goods imported, exported and in transit;
- that any facilitation in customs handling also with authorised economic operators (AEO) must only be guaranteed considering the risks, and that examinations must take place on a regular basis; furthermore, the prerequisites for certification have to be checked on a regular basis;
- the increased integration of the customs administration into the enforcement of prohibitions and restrictions in cross-border goods traffic (e.g. money laundering, drug trafficking, product and brand piracy, health and consumer protection) at a uniformly high level within the Community;
- increased security checks at the external borders of the Community (for the fight against terrorism, container security CSI, etc.);
- the guarantee of uniform health protection (e.g. gassing of containers);
- the national governments to involve the competent customs and tax unions in any organisational, personnel and professional change processes.