

ASYCUDA eCITES

A SOLUTION FOR THE AUTOMATION OF THE CITES PERMIT PROCESSES

Side Event organised by UNCTAD / Center of Excellence and supported
by Switzerland and the CITES Secretariat

Tuesday 28 November 2017 12:30 to 14:00

ICC, Room 6

Geneva, Switzerland

About this side event

The automation of CITES processes in Management Authorities is crucial to control and regulate trade in wildlife and to combat illegal trade in wildlife. Automation of CITES processes enforces regulations, increases transparency and reduces opportunities for corruption and the use of fraudulent documents.

Furthermore, the exchange of electronic CITES permits with customs and border control agencies enables automated risk management and targeted inspections of consignments, making better use of available resources and facilitating legal trade. Electronic permit information exchange (EPIX) with other Parties puts an end to practices using fraudulent paper permits to launder illegal trade in endangered species in the international supply chain.

CITES fully supports the use of electronic permits as a functional equivalent of paper permits. The ePermitting Working Group provides high-level governance and ensures that CITES can benefit from new technologies and global progress in trade control and facilitation such as the recent adoption of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

To support Management Authorities to move towards electronic CITES processing the Secretariat and the United Nations Conference on Trade and development (UNCTAD) agreed to develop ASYCUDA eCITES system (ACITES).

ACITES supports the relevant CITES permit processes for automated request, processing and issuance of permits, including electronic payment of fees and generation of reports. The system can exchange electronic messages with the Customs authorities for electronic risk-management and update of actual quantities exported and is prepared for electronic Permit Information Exchange (EPIX).

ACITES is configurable to the specific national requirements, including national legislation, workflows and official languages. The system is available now to Parties for implementation in the framework of a technical cooperation project with UNCTAD / Centre of Excellence in Gibraltar.

The side event will present the ACITES software solution. It discusses priorities and needs of Parties for the implementation of electronic CITES solutions and ACITES systems, the different options for implementation and maintenance and electronic permit information exchange with Customs control systems, Single Windows and Management Authorities.

Programme

Welcome Mathias Loertscher, Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office, Switzerland
eCITES: Automation and electronic information management for improved implementation of the Convention Markus Pikart, CITES Secretariat
ACITES: A solution for automated CITES information management Constantin Ciuta, UNCTAD DTL / ASYCUDA Programme Nicolae Popa, Centre of Excellence Gibraltar
Question & Answers