



## **ASEM Seminar on Single Window Cooperation**

China, 2019

### **Concept Paper**

#### **Background**

Economic and trade liberalization & facilitation is becoming more and more important for ASEM partners. Given the context of the growing need for economic and trade globalization, Single Window has become an internationally recognized concept and practice for ASEM port administration and an important method for ASEM partners to facilitate trade and improve business environment. As a driving force that boosts trade growth in Asia and Europe, ASEM Customs have reached broad consensus on deepening cooperation in Single Window as a means to promote connectivity. During the 12th Meeting of ASEM Working Group on Customs Matter held on 23-25 May 2018 in Chengdu, China, ASEM partners identified Single Window as the top priority for future customs cooperation.

In the outcome report of ASEM connectivity adopted by the 12th ASEM Summit held in Brussels, October 2018, ASEM partners reached consensus on promoting customs clearance facilitation, and agreed to strengthen Connectivity through closer cooperation on Single Window. Against this backdrop, China Customs is going to host a seminar on single window cooperation for ASEM partners, to facilitate the cooperation and exchange among ASEM partners on the implementation of single window, in an effort to promote trade facilitation, enhance connectivity and ultimately strengthen economic and trade competitiveness of ASEM community as a whole.

#### **Time and Place**

The Seminar will take place in September or October 2019 in China (tbc). Invitation letters, including the exact time, location and agenda, will be disseminated to ASEM partners in due course.

#### **Participants**

Representatives of ASEM Customs and other governmental agencies (e.g. agencies in charge of single window coordination and implementation), international organizations, private sector, academic sector, media, etc.

#### **Co-Sponsorship**

ASEM partners are invited to co-sponsor the initiative. As ASEM practice, co-sponsors are expected to actively cooperate with the host country in finalizing the concept paper, agenda and outcome document, and send speaker(s) to the seminar.

#### **COSTS**

The venue and organization will be handled by the host country. Participants are kindly requested to cover their own travelling and accommodation expenses.

**Contact Information**

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