



The Secretary General

11.LF-0104E/H.F.

Brussels, 14 July 2011.

Dear Director General,

The WCO has long been working to promote the important role of Customs in the effective control of trans-boundary movements of nuclear and other radioactive material. It has also provided assistance to Member administrations in this respect.

One of the initiatives taken has been the partnership with a number of international organizations including the IAEA, Europol and Interpol in the production of technical documents, such as the Nuclear Security Series, on preventing, detecting, and responding to illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material. These documents provide detailed information on various aspects of Customs control of the trans-boundary movement of nuclear and other radioactive material and combating its illicit trafficking.

More recently, the WCO actively contributed to and co-sponsored the preparation and publication of the Nuclear Security Series No.15 “Nuclear Security Recommendations on Nuclear and Other Radioactive Material *out of Regulatory Control*” which was recently released by the IAEA.

This document, the result of the collective effort of States and several international organizations, provides recommendations for the security of nuclear or other radioactive material that has been reported as being out of regulatory control, as well as for material that is lost, missing or stolen but has not been reported as such, or has been otherwise discovered. The recommended actions cover the confirmation of a credible threat, assessment and interdiction of an attempted act and response to a nuclear security situation.

The document is of particular relevance to Customs operations at the border. As one of the “competent authorities” identified in the document, Customs is required to play an active role in the implementation of most of the recommendations, such as those in a State’s nuclear security regime and those relating to effective border controls, response to nuclear events, use of instruments, information exchange, national coordination and international cooperation.

In this connection, I encourage your Administration to implement the recommendations, in conjunction with other guidelines within the Nuclear Security Series, inter alia by incorporating the recommended measures into your control regime, and by enhancing national collaboration and international cooperation.

All IAEA Nuclear Security Series publications may be downloaded from the IAEA Web site via: <http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/ResultsPage.asp>. The IAEA is currently translating the document into other languages.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please direct your officers to contact Mr. Hui FU of the Compliance Sub-Directorate via e-mail: hui.fu@wcoomd.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kunio Mikuriya', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kunio Mikuriya.

Attachment:

Nuclear Security Series No.15 "Nuclear Security Recommendations on Nuclear and Other Radioactive Material out of Regulatory Control" (English version only available).