

STATEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS OF VIET NAM)
at the tại hội nghị cấp cao Khu vực Châu Á – Âu về tăng cường hợp tác
trong lĩnh vực quá cảnh, tạo thuận lợi thương mại

Distinguished guests participating the United Nations High-Level Meeting for the Euro-Asia Region on Improving Cooperation on Transit, Trade Facilitation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Ha Noi,

On behalf of the General Department of Customs, Ministry of Finance of Viet Nam, I am honored to attend the Meeting and discuss the strategies and experiences on customs cooperation in transitting.

First of all, on behalf of the General Department of Customs, I would like to send you the warmest welcome and wish you all the best.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Along with the development of the market economy, the import and export of goods between countries has increased in frequency. The transit of goods has not only created convenience but also reduced cost and improve effectiveness. Viet Nam with geographic endowment serves as a transit destination for goods among countries in the region and the world. Thanks to that geographic advantage, Vietnamese goods, either imported to be consumed domestically or to be exported to ASEAN region, can be shipped directly to the intended destinations. On the other hand, merchandise from the Northeast of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia or Yunnan Province of China needs to be transitted and stored in Viet Nam. Realizing that duty, Viet Nam has made enormous efforts in fostering the transit business and services through developing both infrastructure network as well as legal framework to smoothen these services (such as: the Law of Trade – Clause 242-253; Law of Customs – Clause 64, 65; Decree 08/2015/ND-CP – Clause 43; Decree 187/2013/ND-CP – Clause 39, 40; Circular 38/2015/TT-BTC – Clause 50, 51; Transit Agreement between Viet Nam and Laos, Cambodia and China).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In order to enhance the management and supervision capacity in customs, in 2014, the Ministry of Finance launched the electronic customs clearance VNACCS/VCIS. The digitalization in customs has facilitated businesses in goods declaration, helped reduce the time in customs clearance as well as made customs management, monitoring and statistics more convenient, transparent and effective.

Previously, for goods in transit, in accordance with Article 19 of Decree No. 154/2005 / ND-CP dated 15/12/2005 of the Government and Circular No. 186/2012 / TT-BTC dated 02 / 11/2012 of the Ministry of Finance, the customs declaration for goods in transit requires manual procedures and declaration on the customs declaration paper for this particular type.

Hiện nay, thủ tục hải quan đối với hàng hóa quá cảnh thực hiện trên Hệ thống theo quy định đối với hàng hóa vận chuyển chịu sự giám sát hải quan. Theo đó, hàng hóa quá cảnh sẽ thực hiện khai báo theo phương thức điện tử và khai báo trên tờ khai vận chuyển độc lập quy định tại Điều 50, 51 Thông tư số 38/2015/TT-BTC ngày 25/3/2015 của Bộ Tài chính.

Currently, the customs procedures for goods in transit which are carried out on the System in accordance with the provisions for transport goods are subjected to customs supervision. Accordingly, the transit goods shall be declared electronically and declared on separate transport declaration prescribed in Articles 50 and 51 of Circular No. 38/2015 / TT-BTC of March 25, 2015 of the Ministry of Finance.

Thus, compared to the traditional method, declaring electronically creates favorable conditions for businesses to declare and clear the quantity of imported goods while satisfying the management and statistical requirements of the customs agency.

However, the transition from manual management to digital management initially have several difficulties (in terms of system, capacity of customs officers and businesses.) In order to resolve these difficulties, the Ministry of Finance has implemented a number of measures including:

- + Promoting, disseminating the information and providing training for customs officers and businesses on the new system prior to its implementation; At the same time, in the course of implementation, organizing professional training for civil servants and instructing businesses to comply with the regulations on declaration of transported goods subjected to customs supervision.

- + Synchronizing customs management policies to align with the new customs administration.

- + Organizing experience learning sessions for customs officers in developed countries.

- + In the process of implementation, promptly answer and solve problems arising for enterprises on policies, procedures and systems.

On future direction:

- + Continuing to improve policy customs procedures on goods in transit to meet the requirements of management and supervision.

- + Upgrade and build additional functions for the declaration software to meet the management requirement for separate transport declaration.

- + In addition, the General Department of Vietnam Customs is now finding solutions to upgrade the electronic customs clearance system to meet the Customs Law of 2014 (Project in 2017).

+ Customs managing and monitoring of goods in transit: the General Department of Vietnam Customs is studying the application of more modern methods: using GPS seals to manage and monitor goods in transit instead of the current customs seals.

+ Continue to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of customs transit between Vietnam and Laos, Cambodia and China (Agreement on the Transit of Goods between Vietnam and Laos on 13 March 2009; Agreement on the Transit of Goods between Vietnam and Cambodia on 26 December 2013; Agreement on the Transit of Goods between Vietnam and China on 9 April 1994);

+ Continue to promote and actively participate in multilateral cooperation in the field of goods in transit in the ASEAN region (Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Goods in Transit)

In order to promote goods-in-transit services in the ASEAN region, Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries have signed the Framework Agreement on trade facilitation, including the Protocol 7 on goods in transit. According to the Agreement, Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries' goods in transit shall be placed under the ASEAN Custom Transit System (ACTS). Participation in this Agreement will create favourable legal basis for the formation of an effective transit system and it is one of important measures for the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community.

With such advantages in geographical location, legal basis and facilities as mentioned above, together with the enhancement of cooperation in the field of custom in general and custom transit in particular, favourable conditions will be created to enhance the transit services and concurrently assist customs administrations to manage and monitor them more effectively.

On this occasion, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, General Department of Vietnam Customs, I would like to wish all Delegates health, happiness and success. I wish the Conference a great success.