

**Memorandum of Understanding between the General  
Administration  
of Customs of the People' s Republic of China  
and the Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic  
on Cooperation Foregoing The Silk Road Economic Belt Initiative  
Implementation**

The General Administration of Customs of the People' s Republic of China and the Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the Parties),

**With a view to** implementing the consensus reached at the 4<sup>th</sup> China-CEEC leaders' summit, and promoting customs connectivity and cooperation within the One Belt and One Road Framework,

**Acknowledging** the need to support international trade and smooth movement of goods between the People' s Republic of China and the European Union,

**Taking into account** the intention of the Parties to strengthen the mutual relations and to deepen cooperation under the Silk Road Economic Belt Initiative,

**Being aware** that the implementation of the Memorandum does not affect any other agreements contracted by the Parties in customs area and respecting the relevant agreements and arrangements as:

the Agreement between the European Community and the Government of the People's Republic of China on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters, the EU - China Strategic Framework for Customs Cooperation (2014 - 2017, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Slovak Republic in Promotion of Building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road,

**Considering** economic benefits for the countries of the Parties participating in the Silk Road Economic Belt Initiative,

**Taking into account** the common effort of the Parties to enhance

the exchange of goods between the People's Republic of China and the European Union and to support the global trade,

**Recognising** that the Parties are facing challenges resulting from the changing global trade environment, hence the appropriate measures and early response are required,

Have agreed upon the MoU as follows:

### **Article 1** **Standards**

The Parties intend to make all effort to accomplish the full and functioning implementation of the Silk Road Economic Belt Initiative and provide all necessary assistance in relation to implementation of the Initiative.

The Parties shall cooperate in order to implement international standards and best practices, with a particular focus on:

- Mutual recognition of controls**, to reduce duplication and allow better targeting of the controls;
- Mutual enforcement assistance**, to protect legitimate trade;
- Mutual exchange of information**, to share all necessary information and their best practises in order to achieve the objectives of this Memorandum

### **Article 2** **Scope of cooperation**

1. The Parties declare to make publicly available customs procedures in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and to offer necessary facilitation measures to compliant traders and legal trade.

2. The Parties are committed to stepping up customs cooperation, especially in the following fields:

- a. Establishing and maintaining liaison channels to ensure timely exchange of information referred to in the Article 1 of this MoU ;
- b. Informing one another of applicable customs laws and procedures and sharing best practice on promoting trade facilitation;
- c. Adopting measures, within each party's jurisdiction and through

negotiation, to streamline customs procedures for transiting goods and means of transport, in order to facilitate legitimate movement of goods;

d. Exchanging information to ensure the effective enforcement of customs laws and to prevent, investigate and punish violations in line with the Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the European Community on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters signed on December 8, 2004;

e. Actively participating in the phase 3 of the China-EU Smart and Secure Trade Lanes Pilot Project and cooperation on facilitating customs clearance in the China-EU Railway Transport, to better secure and facilitate China-EU trade.

3. The Parties may offer one another the following technical assistance based on the principle of mutual benefit:

a. Exchange of personnel and experts for a better understanding of each party's customs laws and regulations;

b. Training, focusing on increasing skills of customs officers;

c. Sharing experience on the application of modern technology, equipment and information technology in customs management.

### **Article 3**

#### **Mechanism**

Each Party will appoint a contact person responsible for information exchange within this Memorandum.

By mutual agreement, the Parties may set up interim Expert groups dealing with various aspects of the implementation of the Silk Road Economic Belt Initiative. Expert group meetings shall be convened on a regular basis, making work plans, establishing terms of reference and duration of the expert group and furthering cooperation through coordination.

The Parties will hold meetings at least once a year to assess realised cooperation and achieved results of the implementation of this Memorandum.



## **Article 4**

### **Legal status**

This Memorandum is not an international agreement and does not derogate from national legislation of the Parties or from relevant international agreements. This Memorandum shall not affect the rights nor obligations arising from other agreements to which the People's Republic of China or the Slovak Republic are Parties, nor from their membership in international organizations.

## **Article 5**

### **Amendment and settlement of disputes**

This Memorandum may be amended by a mutual written consent of the Parties.

Any issues related to the implementation of this Memorandum shall be resolved through consultations between the Parties.

## **Article 6**

### **Cost**

Each Party will bear the costs connected with its participation in cooperation within this Memorandum.

## **Article 7**

### **Entry into force, termination, accession of third party**

This Memorandum is implemented from the date of its signature until commencement of cooperation of the Parties under the Silk Road Economic Belt Initiative.

Each Party may terminate this Memorandum by written notice served on the other Parties. The implementation of this Memorandum will be terminated at the end of third calendar month from the date of receipt of this notice.

This Memorandum shall apply solely between the parties but shall be open for signature to any third party if such third party expresses its consent with all provisions hereof.

Done in Riga, on 5.11, 2016 in two originals.

For the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China      For the Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes.A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a large, circular initial followed by a few more strokes.

# 中华人民共和国海关总署与斯洛伐克共和国财税总局关于推进实施丝绸之路经济带合作倡议的谅解备忘录

中华人民共和国海关总署与斯洛伐克共和国财税总局（以下简称双方），

为了落实第四次中国—中东欧国家领导人会晤达成的重要共识，推动“一带一路”框架下的海关互联互通合作；

注意到有必要支持中国与欧盟之间国际贸易发展和货物无障碍运输；

考虑到双方有意加强相互关系以深化在“丝绸之路经济带”倡议框架下的合作；

认识到本谅解备忘录不影响双方已缔结的其他海关合作协议，并尊重以下相关协定及安排：

《中华人民共和国政府和欧洲共同体海关合作与互助协定》，

《中国与欧盟海关合作战略框架》（2014—2017），

《中华人民共和国政府和斯洛伐克共和国政府关于推进丝绸之路经济带和21世纪海上丝绸之路建设的谅解

备忘录》，

意识到在“丝绸之路经济带”倡议框架下各参与国的积极经济效益；

考虑到通过共同努力将加强中国和欧盟的货物流通并支持全球贸易发展；

意识到正在面临的全球贸易环境变化，双方应采取合适举措并提前进行应对的必要性；

兹达成谅解备忘录如下：

## 第一条 合作标准

双方承诺同意通过共同努力全面有效实施“丝绸之路经济带”倡议，并为该倡议的落实提供必要支持。

双方应加强合作执行国际通行标准与最佳实践，并着重开展：

—相互承认监管结果，减少重复监管，提高监管的针对性；

—相互开展执法互助，保护合法贸易；

—相互开展信息交换，分享落实本备忘录的必要信息和最佳实践经验。



## 第二条 合作领域

一、双方声明依据各自适用的法律法规公布相关海关监管通关手续，并对守法贸易商及合法货物流动给予必要的贸易便利化措施。

二、双方承诺在以下方面深化海关合作：

（一）建立和保持沟通渠道，以确保和促进本谅解备忘录第一条所提及信息的互换与交流；

（二）交流彼此适用的海关法律及海关手续，分享促进贸易便利化的最佳实践；

（三）在各自职权范围内协商采取措施相互简化双方过境货物和运输工具的海关手续，以便利货物合法流通；

（四）根据2004年12月8日签署的《中欧海关协定》相互提供适当信息，以保证海关法的有效实施以及防止、调查和打击违反海关法规的活动；

（五）积极参与中欧安全智能贸易航线试点计划第三阶段项目以及中欧班列通关便利化合作项目，提升中欧贸易安全与便利化水平。

三、双方可在互利的基础上在以下方面提供技术协助：



(一) 人员和专家的交流，以增进彼此对对方海关法律法规的了解；

(二) 培训，尤其是在培养海关关员技能领域的培训；

(三) 交流先进技术装备和信息技术在海关管理中的应用经验。

### 第三条 合作机制

双方指定联络人，负责交换本谅解备忘录框架内的相关信息。

经双方同意可成立“丝绸之路经济带”倡议实施问题临时专家组，定期召开工作会议，制定工作方案，确定专家组的职权范围及延续时间，协调推动相关合作。

双方每年至少举行一次会议，对实施本谅解备忘录的成果和取得的进展进行评估。

### 第四条 法律地位

双方确认此谅解备忘录非国际条约，不产生国际法调控的权利和义务，不影响中华人民共和国和斯洛伐克共和国作为其他国际条约缔约国的权利和义务，且不影响双方

在国际组织的成员身份。

## 第五条 修订和争议解决

经双方书面同意可以对本谅解备忘录进行修订和补充。

双方应通过协商解决本谅解备忘录执行过程中出现的争议和分歧。

## 第六条 费用

双方中的每一方承担其参与本谅解备忘录框架内合作相关的费用。

## 第七条 生效、终止及第三方加入

本谅解备忘录自签署之日起直至在“丝绸之路经济带”倡议框架下双方开始开展合作有效。

双方中的任何一方可通过向另一方发送书面通知的方式终止本谅解备忘录的效力。在收到该通知之日起3个月后终止执行本谅解备忘录。

本谅解备忘录仅适用于签署双方，但如有第三方国家认可上述所有条款，也可以申请加入。

本谅解备忘录于2016年11月在里加签署，一式2份。

中华人民共和国海关总署

斯洛伐克共和国财税总局





