

Kathleen Conway
CBP, US Mission to the EU

Details

Panellist for "*The European dimension - EU Customs goes paperless on a tight timeline*"

Ms. Kathy Conway, CBP Attaché, serves as the liaison to both the World Customs Organization and the European Union. In this capacity, Ms. Conway addresses an array of Customs, security, facilitation and border management issues. Additionally, Ms. Conway regularly engages in discussions and forums with government and industry representatives on trade facilitation, compliance and security matters.



Ms. Conway has held the position of CBP Attaché assigned to Brussels since March 1, 2006. Previously, she served as the Director, Interdiction and Security, Office of Field Operations, CBP's Headquarters, Washington, DC. She provided oversight in the development of policy regarding maritime and cargo security and establishing programs such as the Container Security Initiative and the implementation of the Maritime Transportation Security Act and cargo security strategy. Ms. Conway began her career with the U.S. government over 25 years ago as a U.S. Customs Inspector assigned to the port of Buffalo/Niagara Falls, New York.

At the Conference

Ms Conway said that USCBP had published their strategy on a paperless environment, which is available on their website. Imports and trade law complexity will grow considerably, during 2008 CBP processed imports worth \$2.2 trillion and raised %32 billion in revenue, as such there is a need for a strategy to keep balance between trade and security. This strategy includes

- 1) To facilitate trade and ensure compliance.
- 2) To enforce trade laws and get revenue.
- 3) Advance National security.
- 4) Intensify modernisation of our trade processes

To facilitate trade and ensure compliance means an improvement in risk management and targeting based on advanced information (including 10+2). CBP are also looking to strengthen links with trade partners, Other Governmental Organisation's and

international organisations, to ensure compliance and also to expand pre-entry and post release verification programmes to reduce cargo delays at the border.

To intensify modernisation of trade processes CBP are looking to streamline them and supply better delivery to stakeholders through automated and account based processes and to enhance trade expertise.

In replying to a question about the necessity of improving procedures and formalities, not just the substance of international agreements Ms Conway said that there is a lot of effort between the EU and US at present in co-ordinating risk management. CBP is working alongside member state with the Container Security Initiative where there are 58 CSI ports worldwide with 23 in the EU. Export documents and manifest and the 24 hour rule is being utilised and once shipments are cleared for export to US, they are only checked if there is a compliance issue or additional information issue.

There is also the Transatlantic Economic Council which will, amongst other things, look at an officer exchange alongside EU officials bringing together all our different expertise. The Goal being to come up with t a joint rule set whether in or out of the Union. There will also be discussion about the AEO Mutual recognition, and the Joint Customs co-operation Council will tackle the technical and legal challenges of AEO and Mutual recognition.

As regards 100% scanning Ms Conway said that CBP have never hidden the fact that they are against it. In her personal opinion she said that there should be 'informed discussion' at the political level after the pilot projects reports have been digested.