

EDITORIAL



Let me start by thanking all our readers who have provided such positive feedback following the launch of the *World Customs Journal* in March this year. Judging from the encouragement and support received from around the world, it is apparent that the Journal has already provided the genesis of a robust forum for members of the Customs community to share their research, their experiences, and ‘lessons learned and lessons earned’ (to quote Michael Laden).

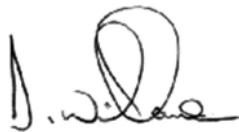
Following the second instalment of the comprehensive three-part review of emerging issues in European customs law by Michael Wolfgang and Talke Ovie, this second issue of the Journal turns its focus to supply chain security. In addressing this issue, both the academic contributions and those of practitioners provide insightful and informative results and commentary with particular reference to the WCO’s SAFE Framework of Standards and the concept of Authorised Economic Operator.

Andrew Grainger adeptly identifies the complexity or ‘spaghetti bowl’ of the cross-border environment, and the need for further alignment of institutions to ensure supply chain security objectives are met. The body of knowledge on this important topic is further advanced by Ximena Gutiérrez, Juha Hintsa, Philippe Wieser and Ari-Pekka Hameri whose research, which is based on wide-ranging surveys of BASC member companies, provides useful insights into the benefits, effectiveness and costs of implementing measures designed to enhance security in end-to-end supply chains.

In the section devoted to practitioner contributions, Kunio Mikuriya provides an in-depth overview of supply chain security opportunities and challenges, together with methods of responding to such challenges. This is followed by items from Theo Fletcher, Andrew Hosking, Singapore Customs, and Michael Laden which demonstrate the commitment of both public and private sector organisations in identifying ways to achieve and maintain safer international supply chains whilst facilitating the transportation of goods.

Once again, on behalf of the Editorial Board, it is my pleasant duty to thank each of the contributors for their input – we have found the articles to provide valuable insights into the regulatory and commercial imperatives of securing the international supply chain and we trust that you, too, will benefit from this issue’s research results and shared experiences.

The next edition of the Journal will focus on trade facilitation – I look forward to receiving your contributions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Widdowson'.

David Widdowson
Editor-in-Chief