

Editorial



This year's WCO Technology Conference and Exhibition, which is being held in Maastricht, has the theme 'Driving Customs performance with data and technology in the changing landscape of global trade'. As in previous years, this event will no doubt highlight the opportunities and challenges that new technologies bring to the border management landscape, which are currently front of mind for both regulators and the international trading community.

The conference closely follows the launch of a new edition of the WCO/WTO Study Report on Disruptive Technologies, which explores those technologies that are reshaping the way in which trade and trade regulation is carried out. In a similar fashion to the way in which containerisation transformed the physical movement of goods in the 1950s, the use of big data, data analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, the Internet of Things, blockchain, biometrics and other technologies are revolutionising the way in which information is being used.

These pivotal issues will also be addressed by several speakers at December's Partnership in Customs Academic Research and Development (PICARD) conference, to be held in Brussels, under the themes of 'disruptive technology and enforcement', 'data sharing and analysis' and 'digital technologies to enhance regulatory performance'.

In light of the emerging opportunities and threats posed by these new and emerging technologies, the Editorial Board would welcome articles from both academics and practitioners for publication in future editions of the *World Customs Journal*.

Finally, it is heartening to note that, despite the current circumstances under which they are currently living and working, our Ukrainian colleagues are continuing to contribute to the body of academic knowledge in the field of customs and border management, and it is a pleasure to be able to publish two of their research papers in the current edition of the *Journal*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'D. Widdowson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D'.

Professor David Widdowson AM
Editor-in-Chief