

# **CONFIAD**

**PAN EUROPEAN NETWORK**

**Newsletter**



## Palazzo Giustiniani, Italy, 1982: where everything began



*Figure 1- Venice - Italy - Palazzo Giustiniani*

The Confiad PAN EUROPEAN NETWORK (Confederation des Agents en Doune), International Federation of Custom Brokers and Custom Representative was founded in the heart of the City of the Doges in the Palais “Ca’ Giustiniani – Venice on the 14th of may 1982.

The initiators were decisions makers of the national custom brokers association of Greece (OETE), Italy (ANASPED), Portugal (CAMARA DOS DESPACHANTES OFICIALS) and Spain (Consejo General de los Colegios de agentes de aduana).

# Our Governance history



*1<sup>ST</sup> President Osvaldo de Santis – Italia*



*2<sup>ND</sup> President Jean Chabrierie – France*

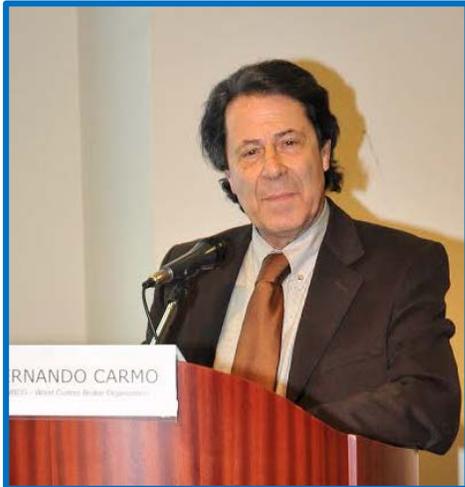


*3<sup>RD</sup> President Mario Flores – Espana*



*4<sup>TH</sup> President Gaspar Nunez – Espana*

# Our Governance history



*5<sup>TH</sup> President Fernando Carmo – Portugal*



*6<sup>TH</sup> President George Zografos – Greece*



*7<sup>TH</sup> President Massimo De Gregorio - Italy*

# Mission

The Confiad was founded with the purpose to defend and coordinate the professional interest of its members supporting and harmonisation of the legislative, professional and customs regulations at European level.

Customs brokers, also know as “customs agents” are natural persons whose main duty is to assist importers and exporters in the customs clearance, and in general, in the fulfilment of all the customs operations and formalities related to the international movement of goods.

A definition of “customs agent” can be found in the “glossary international Customs Terms” of the WCO World Customs Organization, that defines the customs clearing agents as a person who carries on the business of arranging for Customs clearance of goods and who deals directly with Customs for and behalf of another person.

The Customs Broker/ Customs Representative are: facilitators of trade and they guarantee the correct recovery of the financial resources of the States.

Confiad represents its members to the EU institutions and to other public and private administrations and organizations.

Confiad embodies 20 000 companies (mainly small and medium size enterprise) providing customs services employing 250 000 workers all over European Union.

In the Confiad’s members States the customs brokers/customs representative must hold a valid State- released licence in order to perform any kind of customs activity on behalf of third parties. In particular each customs intermediary is required to be registered or accredited before customs and prove the holding of a special competence, Knowledge and reliability requirements with regards to the customs procedures.

The requirements of “competency” and “knowledge” usually entail a preliminary assessment by the public authorities which is performed through an exam combined with a period of practice. This process guarantee to enterprises and to National customs authorities to work with high professional customs experts. This increase also the level of safety and security within the EU’s territory.

Without customs brokers probably a lot of small and medium enterprises could not do business, as they do not have the knowledge and the professionalism to perform customs formalities.

the action of the Confederation includes:

- a) The development of co-operation and friendly relations;
- b) Putting into value the exercise of the professional activity;
- c) The study and the solution, especially through the organisation of conferences and meetings, not only for the problems arising from the professional activity but also the application of the adopted decisions;
- d) The representation of the professional members near the authorities, the public and private administrations or organisations;
- e) The nomination of the representatives of the professional class, near all international entities and organisations;
- f) The creation of study and cultural centres;
- g) The whole of customs national and international law and of that concerning its representation.



## **CEN/PC 432 "COMPETENCY OF CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVE" PROJEC**

As provided in the Union Customs Code, which will be adopted in October 2013 and implemented in May 2016, EU Member States, in accordance with Union Law, may establish the condition under which a customs representative may provide services where he is established. Customs representative complying with the conditions for granting AEO-C (Authorized Economic Operator – Customs) status are entitled to offer customs representation services in E.U. Member States othe they are established.

To become AEO-C as a customs representative, you should prove that you fulfil the conditions of ‘practical standards of competence’ or ‘professional qualifications’ as provide by the article 28

### **IA-I-EN-ACT-PART5:**

1.The criterion laid down in Article 39(d) of the Code shall be considered to be fulfilled if any of the following conditions are met:

(a) the applicant or the person in charge of the applicant’s customs matters complies with one

of the following practical standards of competence:

(i) a proven practical experience of a minimum of three years in customs matters;

(ii) a quality standard concerning customs matters adopted by a European Standardisation body.

(b) the applicant or the person in charge of the applicant’s customs matters has successfully completed training covering customs legislation consistent with and relevant to the extent of his involvement in customs related activities, provided by any of the following:

(i) a customs authority of a Member State;

(ii) an educational establishment recognised, for the purposes of providing such qualification, by the customs authorities or a body of a Member State responsible for professional training;

(iii) a professional or trade association recognised by the customs authorities of a Member State or accredited in the Union, for the purposes of providing such qualification.

2. Where the applicant uses a contracted person, as referred to in paragraph 1, the criterion laid down in Article 39(d) of the Code shall be considered to be fulfilled if the contracted person is an economic operator authorised for customs simplifications as referred to in Article 38(2)(a) of the Code (AEOC).

The Union Commission encourage the enhancement of the quality of customs services through the voluntary adoption of Community-wide standards of Competency by

“Customs Representatives”, Confiad launched the project with Clecat in the 23 april 2014.

The CEN/PC 432 standardisation of competency for Customs Representatives has the aim to:

- contribute to the improvement of the quality of customs services;
- approximate the level of training required for Customs Representatives in different Member States, without replacing national regulations;
- assist Member States in providing their nationally established Customs Representatives
- legitimacy and competency to offer services in other Member States;
- create the conditions for a single E.U. Customs representation market;
- facilitate the free movement of goods, by giving the representative a common reference in the
- provision of Customs services;
- support the integration of the European market of customs services, by improving its operational
- improve compliance with Customs, excise and VAT legislation as well as to allow a more efficient use
- support E.U. Member States in the assessment of the AEO applications .

After five meetings from the launch and the development of the project, the last Project Committee, held in October 2105 at the Afnor headquarters in Paris, decided to wait for the

latest comments on section V to be received as soon as possible. The Committee will then submit to the national standards body the request to open the balloting in order to complete the project within the entry into force of the new code.