By initiative of the International Customs Law Academy (ICLA) was held the Ninth World Meeting of Customs Law in the city of Brussels, Belgium, hosted by the World Customs Organization (WCO), which provided its excellent A/B conference room.

We were honored to have the participation of Mr. Kunio Mikuriya, Secretary General of the WCO who gave the opening and closing messages.

The scientific sessions began on Thursday, 05th September with the keynote speech of Mr. Sergio Mujica, Deputy Secretary General of the WCO on Perspective and Challenges of the WCO. Afterwards the presentations were made thorough the following panels:

**Panel 1** The speakers were Mr. Ricardo X. Basaldúa, Mr. Bryce Blegen, Mr. Jorge Enríque Loera, with the topics: Legal Principles of Modernized Customs Control in Contemporary Cross-Border Trade; The safe Framework and the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO). The Evolution towards a Conventional Standard and National Regulations; The Impact and use of the Agreements on Mutual Administrative Assistance among Customs Authorities relating to Violations and Enforcement and the Operation of Supply Chain Security. The remarks of the WCO were made by Ms. Susanne Aigner and the panel was moderated by Professor Dr. Lothar Gellert, member of the Board of Directors of the ICLA.

**Panel 2** Mr. Renato Antonini, Mr. Massimo Fabio and Mr. Germán Pardo presented the following topics: Harmonized System and Uniform Application of Tariff Classification, for Customs Purposes and for Dual Use Goods; Customs Valuation and Harmonization of Principles and Methods to Address Undervaluation; Harmonization of the scope and the Limits of Post-Clearance Customs Audits. Rights and Limitations for the Customs Authorities and Individuals. This panel was moderated by Mr. Oscar Cruz Barney, Secretary of the ICLA and the remarks of the WCO were conducted by Mr. Ian Cremer.
The speakers of the Panel 3 were Mr. Francisco Pelechá, Mr. Mauro Giffoni and Professor Hans-Michael Wolffgang who presented the topics: Harmonization of Customs Clearance and Risk Management, Special Procedures for Temporary Imports, Transit, Containers, Express Shipments and other procedures, Customs Compliance; Future Harmonization Issues in the Union Customs Code; Legal thoughts how to merge Trade Facilitation and Safety and Security. The remarks were made by Mr. Stefan Aniszewski of the WCO and the Moderator was Mr. Jorge Rivera, Director of the Centre of Comparative Law and Advanced Studies of the ICLA.

Panel 4 The speakers were Professor Olena Pavlenko and Professor David Widdowson with the following topics: The Framework of the Guidance, Integrity and Training in Customs; The Role of the Customs Scholars in Capacity Building. The remarks were provided by Mr. Erich Kieck of the WCO and the Moderator was Mr. Jean-Paul Bouquin, member of the Board of Directors of the ICLA.

At the end of the panels was presented the keynote speech entitled “Modern Customs in the World of Virtual Reality” by Dr. Miroslaw Zielinski, Director Customs Policy, Legislation and Tariffs (TAXUD) (Taxation and Customs European Entity)

During the celebration of the World Meeting of Customs Law took place the General Assembly of ASAPRA, which contributed with the Panel of Directors of Customs Authorities and the Private Sector Panel having as speakers: Enrique Canon, Filadelfo Reyes, Luis Fernando Pérez, Alfonso Rojas, Fernando Carmo Jean-Marie Salva and Fernando Barbosa.

In the closing ceremony we heard the speeches by Mr. Alejandro Ramos Gil, President of ASAPRA; Mr. Kunio Mikuriya Secretary General of the WCO and the message of our Founder President Andrés Rohde.
As is usual at the end of the successful World Meeting of Customs Law, the fellows (members) of the ICLA met up to hold the Annual Ordinary General Assembly that, on this occasion was held in the C/D room in the premises of the World Customs Organization. It was also graced with the presence of Mr. Kunio Mikuriya and Mr. Sergio Mujica, General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary of the WCO, as guests of honor who welcomed the members of the ICLA.

In accordance with the bylaws, Professor Andrés Rohde Ponce acted as President of the Assembly, while Professor Oscar Cruz Barney acted as Secretary.

They proceeded to read the agenda and the Founder President of the ICLA gave his annual report in which he highlighted the working agreements established with the University of Buenos Aires, University of Rosario, the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (National Autonomous University of Mexico) and the agreement for the Doctorate course in Customs Law with the Universidad Panamericana de México (Pan-American University of Mexico).

The next issue on the agenda was when the President, Andrés Rohde, told the Assembly about the candidates applying for membership, as everyone of them is an expert jurist in Customs Law who meets all the other statutory prerequisites and whose names (in alphabetical order according to surnames) are as follows: Susanne Aigner, Horacio Félix Alais, Philippe Bern, Carlos Espinosa Berecochea, Massimo Fabio, Catalina García Vizcaíno and Francia Inés Hernández Díaz.

Furthermore, delivery was made of the “Memories” of the Seventh and Eighth World Meeting of Customs Law that took place in the cities of Buenos Aires Argentina on the days of August 4 and 5, 2011 and Cancun, Mexico on the days of August 23 and 24, 2012.
Lastly the Meeting approved the proposal for the next World Meeting of Customs Law, New York 2014.

Thank you very much to all the attendees!

See you in New York!