

agree that their Customs administrations shall afford each other mutual assistance with a view to preventing, investigating and repressing Customs offences, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

2. The Customs administration of a Contracting Party may request mutual assistance as provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article in the course of any investigation or in connexion with any judicial or administrative proceedings being undertaken by that Contracting Party. If the Customs administration is not itself conducting the proceedings, it may request mutual assistance only within the limits of its competence in these proceedings. Similarly, if proceedings are undertaken in the country of the requested administration, the latter provides the assistance requested within the limits of its competence in these proceedings.

3. Mutual assistance as provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article shall not extend to requests for the arrest of persons or for the recovery of duties, taxes, charges, fines or any other monies on behalf of another Contracting Party.

Article 3

If a Contracting Party considers that the assistance sought would infringe upon its sovereignty, security or other substantial national interests or prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of any enterprise, public or private, it may decline to provide that assistance or give it subject to certain conditions or requirements.

Article 4

If the Customs administration of a Contracting Party requests assistance which it itself would be unable to give if requested to do so by the other Contracting Party, it shall draw attention to that fact in its request. Compliance with such a request shall be within the discretion of the requested Contracting Party.