

AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN CANADA AND FRANCE FOR THE PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION AND SUPPRESSION, BY THE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIONS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, OF CUSTOMS OFFENCES.

The Government of Canada and the Government of the French Republic,

Considering that offences against Customs laws are prejudicial to the economic, fiscal, social and cultural interests of their respective countries, as well as to the legitimate interests of trade, industry, commerce and agriculture,

Convinced that action against these offences would be made more effective by co-operation between their Customs Administrations,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Customs Administrations of the two States shall afford each other mutual assistance, on the terms set out in this Agreement, for the prevention, investigation and suppression of offences against Customs laws.

ARTICLE II

For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "Customs laws" means the statutory or regulatory provisions on the importation, exportation, and transit of goods, whether these provisions involve Customs duty or any other duties or taxes, or prohibitions, restrictions or controls.

ARTICLE III

The Customs Administration of each State shall, at the express request of the Customs Administration of the other contracting State, maintain special surveillance within its field of competence over the following, in accordance with its administrative practices:

- (a) the movements, particularly the entry into and exit from its territory, of persons suspected or known in the requesting State to be habitually or professionally engaged in activities contrary to the Customs laws of that State;
- (b) suspicious movements of goods pointed out by the requesting State to be the subject of important traffic towards that State, traffic which would be in violation of its Customs laws;