

## Press release

Geneva, 28 July, 2010

### **Cotecna awarded contract by OSCE to support Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings**

---

Geneva 28 July, Cotecna, one of the world's leading trade inspection, security and certification companies, has been awarded a consulting contract by the OSCE, (The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) to support the development of the OSCE Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings.

The objective of this project is to assist the 56 OSCE participating states, particularly landlocked countries, to make their border and customs policies more efficient. Examples from across the OSCE countries will be given to illustrate how land border-crossing points can be made more efficient, with the aim of promoting legitimate trade and reducing corruption, illicit trafficking and transnational crime and terrorism. Land border crossings include roads, railways and port-hinterland connections. This project does not include waterways, maritime borders or airports.

The handbook is aimed at national policy-makers, senior customs, border guard/police and heads of regional customs chambers. It will also be accessible to representatives of transport agencies, the business community, civil society and academia.

The handbook, which will be published in English and Russian by the end of 2010, will take into consideration trade and transport facilitation as well as security aspects. The handbook is being developed in co-operation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Mark Miller, Cotecna's Regional Vice President – European Programmes, said, "*Cotecna's extensive expertise and experience in Customs issues and its excellent understanding of existing policies and procedures, makes the company the ideal collaborator to assist OSCE in its mission to develop this handbook*".

**-ends-**

**Cotecna Press**  
Alison Bourgeois  
Vice President Corporate Communications  
Geneva  
+41 22 849 78 23  
press@cotecna.ch

## **Note to editors:**

### **About Cotecna**

Founded in Switzerland in 1974, the Cotecna group offers a wide range of trade facilitation services, trade security services and quality certification standards. Cotecna is a pioneer in areas such as risk management, destination inspection and scanner integration projects and also offers Customs modernization programmes, Customs valuation assistance, trade security solutions and commercial inspections. For a full description of our services, please visit [www.cotecna.com](http://www.cotecna.com). The Cotecna Group has a combined workforce of about 4,000 employees and agents in close to 100 offices.

### **OSCE: The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

The OSCE is the largest regional security organization in the world and has 56 participating States from Europe, Central Asia and North America.

The OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. It has 18 missions or field operations in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The Organization deals with security relating to politico-military, economic and environmental, and human elements. It addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, and democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities. [www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org)