The World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) held the 45th meeting of the WCO–UPU Contact Committee at the UPU International Bureau in Berne, Switzerland, on 18 and 19 November 2025.

The meeting, which brought together members and observers from both the WCO and the UPU, finalized the committee's work under the 2022–2025 cycle. Experts from **nearly 50 customs administrations**, **40 designated postal operators**, and several international organizations joined the event, which was held in a hybrid format.

In their opening remarks, the Co-Chairs from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UPU) and Sweden (WCO) welcomed the participants and emphasized the committee's continued commitment to strengthening Customs–Post cooperation in support of secure, efficient and data-driven postal supply chains. Delegates from both organizations highlighted the importance of further improving data quality, reinforcing compliance, and maintaining strong operational coordination between customs authorities and designated operators.

The committee reviewed updates from the WCO Council and the 28th UPU Congress, and took note of the outcomes of the Post–Customs strategy meeting for the Latin America region. Members also examined the results of joint capacity-building activities carried out in 2025, as well as the ongoing update of the WCO–UPU guidelines on developing national memoranda of understanding between Customs and Posts.

A substantial part of the agenda was dedicated to **electronic advance data (EAD)**. The committee discussed progress in EAD implementation, recent operational challenges – including in the area of transit – and the increasing role of surface transport operators. Delegates also considered the outcomes of the third WCO–UPU data quality and compliance workshop, and exchanged views on the evolution of referral messages and error-handling processes.

The meeting explored broader issues related to e-commerce, including data-driven customs clearance approaches, the use of postal data, ASYCUDA–CDS interface projects, and the integration of new technologies, such as AI-driven Harmonized System (HS) code assignment. Members shared national experiences in improving cooperation between Customs and Posts in high-volume e-commerce environments.

Security and safety remained a key focus. The committee took note of updates on the UPU's S58/S59 security standards, the WCO's BACUDA initiatives, Brazil's risk-management practices, and global efforts to combat illicit, prohibited and restricted goods in the mail stream, among others. Delegates also discussed developments related to wildlife trafficking, counterfeit goods, dangerous substances and new detection tools. The United States of America provided an oral update on the implementation of its recent *de minimis* Executive Order, strengthening data requirements for low-value shipments.

The committee also reviewed progress under the WCO–UPU Contact Committee work plan for 2022–2025 and examined the proposed work plan for the 2026–2029 cycle. Members welcomed the continuation of a strong joint agenda to support secure trade, high-quality data exchange, and improved postal customs procedures worldwide.

The WCO and UPU Co-Chairs thanked all delegates, presenters and technical teams for their active engagement and the constructive discussions throughout the meeting. They commended the valuable experiences shared by members – including Brazil, Canada, France, India, Thailand and the United Kingdom – and expressed confidence in the committee's continued contribution to strengthening Customs–Post cooperation globally.

The 46th meeting of the WCO–UPU Contact Committee is scheduled to take place in late 2026.