Decision by the Commission of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership regarding the Establishment of an ad-hoc Working Group on Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation

The Commission decides as follows:

1. In accordance with Article 27.2.2(a) (Functions of the Commission), the Commission hereby establishes an ad-hoc Working Group on Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation (ad-hoc Working Group) composed of government representatives of each Party.

2. The objectives of the ad-hoc Working Group is to work towards the effective implementation of Article 5.6.1 (f) of Chapter 5 (Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation).

3. The ad-hoc Working Group will:

(a) discuss any issues related to the implementation of Article 5.6.1(f) of Chapter 5 (Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation); and

(b) provide the Commission with advice and recommendations as appropriate.

4. The ad-hoc Working Group will exist until the end of 2023, and will meet as required to deliver on the 2023 work programme concerning Chapter 5 (Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation) initiated by New Zealand as CPTPP Chair. The Commission may, as necessary, decide whether the ad-hoc Working Group will remain in existence and its ongoing functions. If the Commission decides to extend the work of the ad-hoc Working Group, the Commission will issue a decision that sets out the terms of that extension.

5. In carrying out its functions, the ad-hoc Working Group may work with other committees, working groups and any other subsidiary bodies established under this Agreement. The ad-hoc Working Group may, as necessary and by consensus by the Parties, seek advice from, and consider the work of, appropriate experts, such as those from relevant business communities, international organisations, and non-governmental organisations.

6. This decision is effective as of the date of its adoption by the Commission, and will be made publicly available by the Chair of the Commission.