

## Joint statement from the presidents of the Nordic Customs Organization (NCO) Felles pressemelding fra lederne i Nordisk Toll Organisasjon (NTO)

Munich, Germany 22. september 2024

### The customs and border control has never been more important

The “cocaine-tsunami” continues to wash over the European shores, organized crime cartels are getting stronger and the following violence and instability in our society are alarmingly increasing.

Thus, this is a big social problem by itself, it`s clear that border control in the Nordic countries has been neglected for too long – and a revitalization is long overdue. This is an intricate problem that must be addressed by all sorts of authorities, and customs must do their part: Every result made on the border multiplies the savings to the total national cost of crime and its effects on society and overall people safety.

The different Nordic customs authorities all lack human resources, modern and adequate equipment for control, legislative authority, modern technology and has much to improve in the sense of cross-border cooperation.

The Nordic Customs Organization call for action from the Nordic Governments to increase their effort to improve the everyday safety in our countries following these four steps (the inversed 4-3-2-1 strategy):

**The main objective** is to increase the security and safety of our citizens by increased and improved border control.

**Politically** the national governments must

- Agree on a lasting increase in funding of the Customs authorities – a long-term financial plan
- The legal basis must be explored and modernised to increase interdepartmental and international cooperation

**Measures** that each Customs authority must implement are:

- Increase the number of operational staff
- Equip the units with more and modern control-equipment and IT-tools
- Modernise and implement new legislation for more efficient border control and cooperation

The **effects** of this measures will be:

- Reduced accessibility of goods and services that makes the wanted criminal profit
- Reduced possibility to move criminal profit in/out of the countries
- Reduced access to the means and tools the criminals use to conduct their crimes
- Increased collecting, processing and sharing of information on flow of goods and persons connected to organized crime, with the intent to improve own and other authorities in their efforts to work more efficient and goal oriented.

This development is on a national, regional, European and global level, and it`s vital that the countermeasures are made all over the line. Organized crime is always looking for the weakest link, therefore it`s vital that the European and Nordic authorities stand together to battle the threats of border crossing organized crime.

The prospect of crime development that Europe and the Nordic countries are facing is utterly severe, and the European customs authorities are a vital part of the solution.

**The unions are:**

Dansk Told & Skatteforbund (DK)  
Tull/Kust (SE)  
Tollvardafelag Islands (IS)  
Tulliliitto (FI)  
Tullivirkimiesliitto (FI)  
Norsk Tollerforbund (NO)

**Mission statement:**

Nordic Customs Organization (NCO) is compiled by the national customs unions from the Nordic Countries. NCO`s intention is to maintain the liaison and further develop the collaboration between the participating unions. This can be achieved through exchange of

If you have questions or requests for interviews regarding this press release feel free to contact us at [post@norsktollerforbund.no](mailto:post@norsktollerforbund.no)

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