

# Photo Competition

2013

# Angola

## Learning to pay tax through playing

Thirty pupils, aged between 9 and 12 years old, visit the Customs Units at Luanda Quatro de Fevereiro International Airport. The visit is part of a campaign launched in July 2012 and named "Learning to pay tax through playing". It aims to raise the awareness of current and future taxpayers about taxes and the need to comply voluntarily with import and export fiscal laws. The selected children visited certain working areas, such as the Customs declaration lodging and processing areas, as well as the Customs warehouses and scanner section. At the end of the visit, the children said that they had learned a lot about tax. Most importantly, they learned that the Government uses tax income to build new schools and hospitals, and to fund sporting initiatives among others. Some of them said that when they grow up, they want to be Customs officers. Others said that they will tell their parents to comply with fiscal legislation whenever they want to import or export something.





# Argentina

## Future Customs agents

A new generation of Customs sniffer dogs is born in Argentina. Zamba, the mother, feeds her first nine puppies.







## Australia

### Off to work

Officers are about to board a fishing vessel suspected of contravening fishing legislation in Australia's exclusive economic zone. They are part of a Marine Unit of about 320 seagoing officers which operates a fleet of 11 vessels.

The Unit helps to protect a vast maritime area – approximately 59,000 km of coastline and an offshore exclusive economic zone of 11 million square nautical miles – from threats, such as the illegal exploitation of natural resources, illegal activity in protected areas, irregular maritime arrivals, prohibited imports/exports, maritime terrorism, piracy, robbery or violence at sea, and marine pollution.

# Azerbaijan

**We will always find what you have concealed**

Two detector dogs and handler teams inspecting a truck.

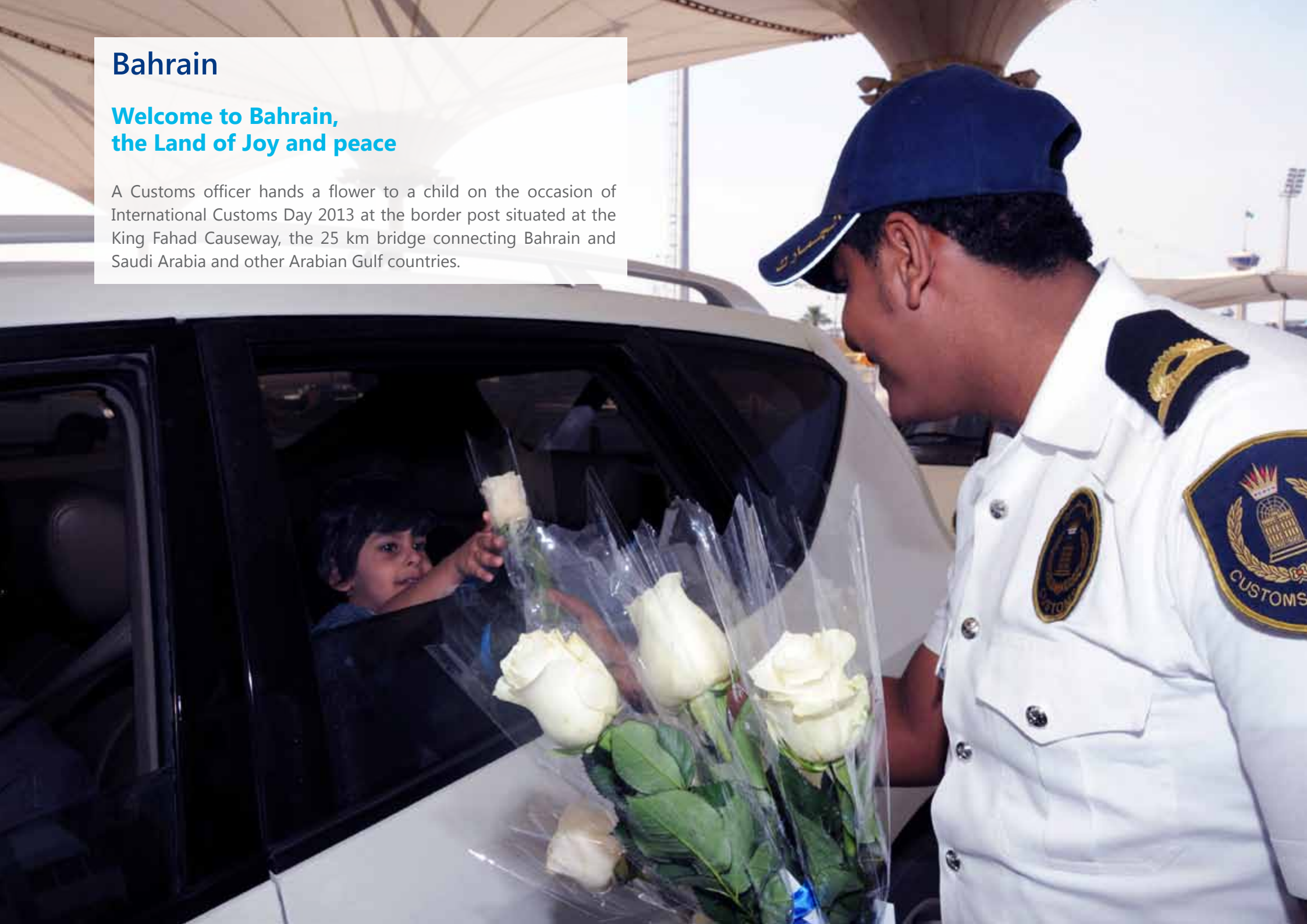




# Bahrain

## Welcome to Bahrain, the Land of Joy and peace

A Customs officer hands a flower to a child on the occasion of International Customs Day 2013 at the border post situated at the King Fahad Causeway, the 25 km bridge connecting Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and other Arabian Gulf countries.



# Belarus

## Saving the past – protecting the future

An officer discovers icons of historical and cultural value being taken illegally out of the country during a car inspection.





## Bermuda

### X-Ray technology foils sophisticated concealment method

Officers undertaking the physical inspection of a shipment following an X-ray scan and canine alert. A controlled delivery was organized resulting in several arrests and the seizure of a considerable quantity of drugs.





# Brazil

## A "Closed Gate" against smuggling by air

From 6 to 9 November 2012, the Federal Revenue, the Air Force and the Federal Highway Police participated in a joint operation called "Closed Gate" which targeted aeroplanes entering Brazil illegally with drugs shipments on board. The aeroplane in the picture was approaching to land at Barretos in São Paulo State when, informed about the presence of officers on the ground, decided to turn back to Paraguay. It crashed in the city of Altônia in the State of Paraná due to lack of fuel. The shipment was valued at 330,000 US dollars.





## Canada

### Let the sparks fly

Making repairs to a piece of training equipment at the Marine Centre of Expertise.





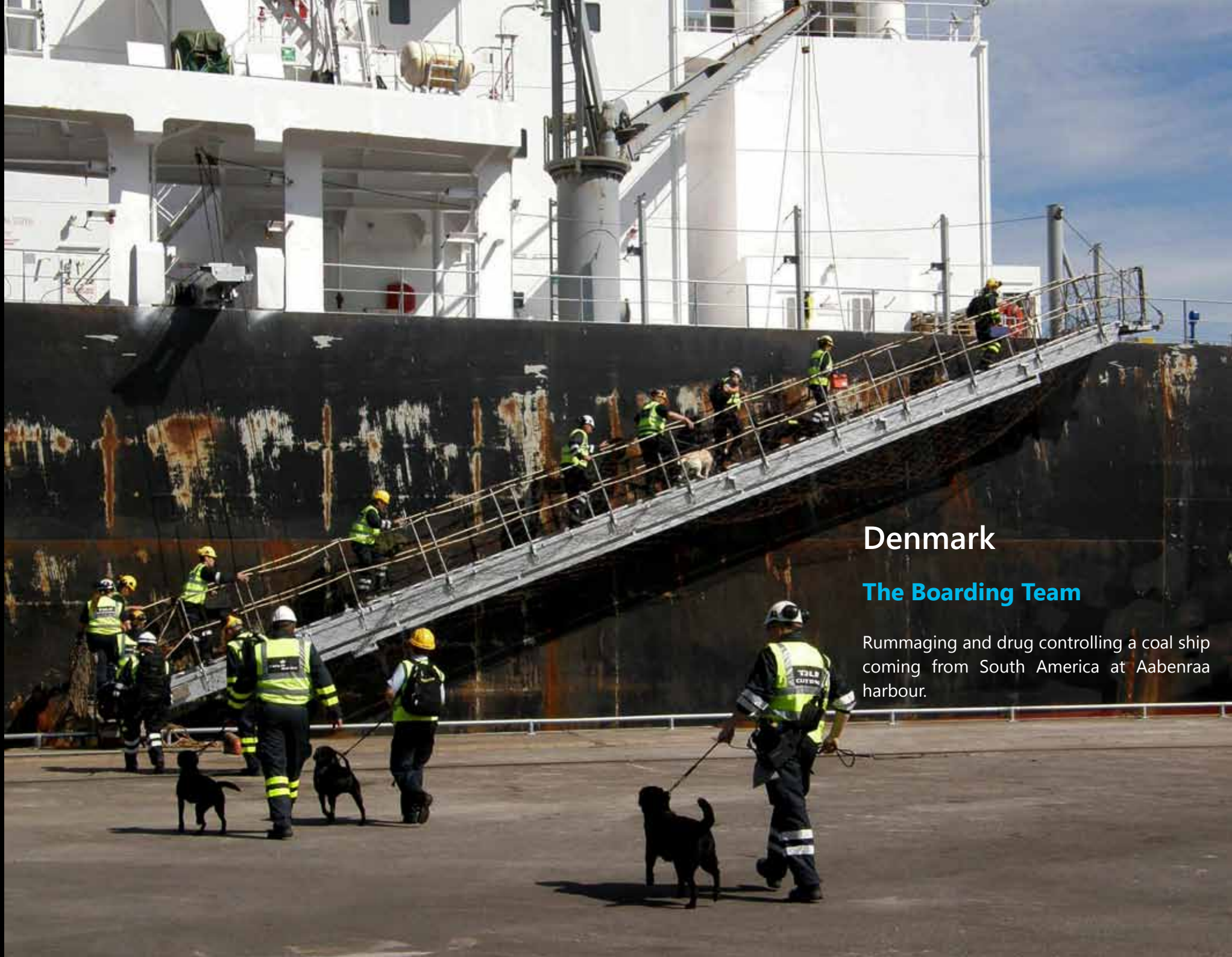
# China

## Customs officers at a bamboo production factory

Customs officers clearing goods at a bamboo production factory. Bamboo production is one of the key industries for the local economy.







Denmark

### The Boarding Team

Rummaging and drug controlling a coal ship coming from South America at Aabenraa harbour.





## Fiji

**Our Fiji. Our Border. Our Security.  
Our Future. Our Business.**

Customs officers meeting children from Vatukarasa village, located along the Coral Coast - Fiji's tourism hot spot -, as part of an awareness-raising campaign on border security. Engaging the community to secure the border is critical for a small developing country like Fiji, surrounded by the vast Pacific Ocean and constrained by resources. Border security entails not only manning ports of entry but also protecting Fiji's economy, resources and environment, and thus its future.



# Finland

## Under a truck

Customs officers inspecting the structures of a truck and looking for potential hiding places. The picture was taken in Katajanokka, a neighbourhood of Helsinki, by Customs officer Risto Silvola in 2007.





# Germany

## Fitness for duty

The German Customs' special task force conducting one of its regular, true-to-life training sessions. Customs officers have to stay in top form to fight offenders effectively, while simultaneously ensuring their own safety.







## Hong-Kong, China

### Customs actions in the digital world

Hong Kong Customs established a Computer Forensic Laboratory in October 2000 with a view to providing forensic services and technical support to investigation officers with respect to the collection, recovery, examination and analysis of digital evidence, which may reside in computer exhibits or other seized electronic storage media.



# Hungary

## Deployment practice

The Customs commando unit during a training session: the unit simulated a forced entry and ensuing exchange of fire. The aim of the task was not only to incapacitate the perpetrator, but also to rescue and treat a wounded member of the commando unit. Airsoft guns were used during the exercise.





# Iceland

## Customs in Action

From time to time Icelandic Customs officers have to inspect vessels that do not enter the port. In order to board the vessel, the officers have to go out to sea, sail in parallel with the vessel at a slow speed, and then climb on board. The seas around Iceland can be rough and officers must be able to do this operation in all conditions. The day the picture was taken they were lucky with the weather!





Ireland

Reducing our carbon paw print





# Israel

## Love has no borders

In cases where a person from Syria wishes to marry a person of Syrian descent living in the Golan Heights area, the couple and their families are allowed to meet in the buffer zone administered by the United Nations. Anyone crossing the border cannot go back and must therefore part from his or her family.

This picture was taken at the Quneitra border crossing between Israel and Syria. It depicts a Syrian bride accompanied by her husband from Israel and his family members heading towards the buffer zone to meet her relatives. The picture expresses the less familiar humanitarian activities of Customs at a highly tense border crossing.







## Jordan

### Protecting marine life

A Customs officer foils an attempt to harvest and smuggle rare species of coral in the Gulf of Aqaba. The Gulf of Aqaba, located on the northern tip of the Red Sea, is considered home to an array of unique and dazzling coral and other marine creatures. The photo bears out one aspect of Jordan Customs' commitment to protect wildlife and enforce the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).



# Lithuania

## Letting the cat out of the bag

Most of the items illegally transported to Lithuania from Belarus are tobacco products. Uncovered smuggling cases show that smugglers try to illegally move the goods in small quantities in order to avoid criminal liability. Packs of cigarettes are usually hidden in a vehicle's bodywork cavities, under the upholstery of seats, in specially equipped double floors and ceilings, in dashboards, in tires, and even in fuel tanks (in which case they are well-wrapped in plastic foil). For transporting smuggled goods, they usually choose low-value vehicles worth no more than 150 euro.





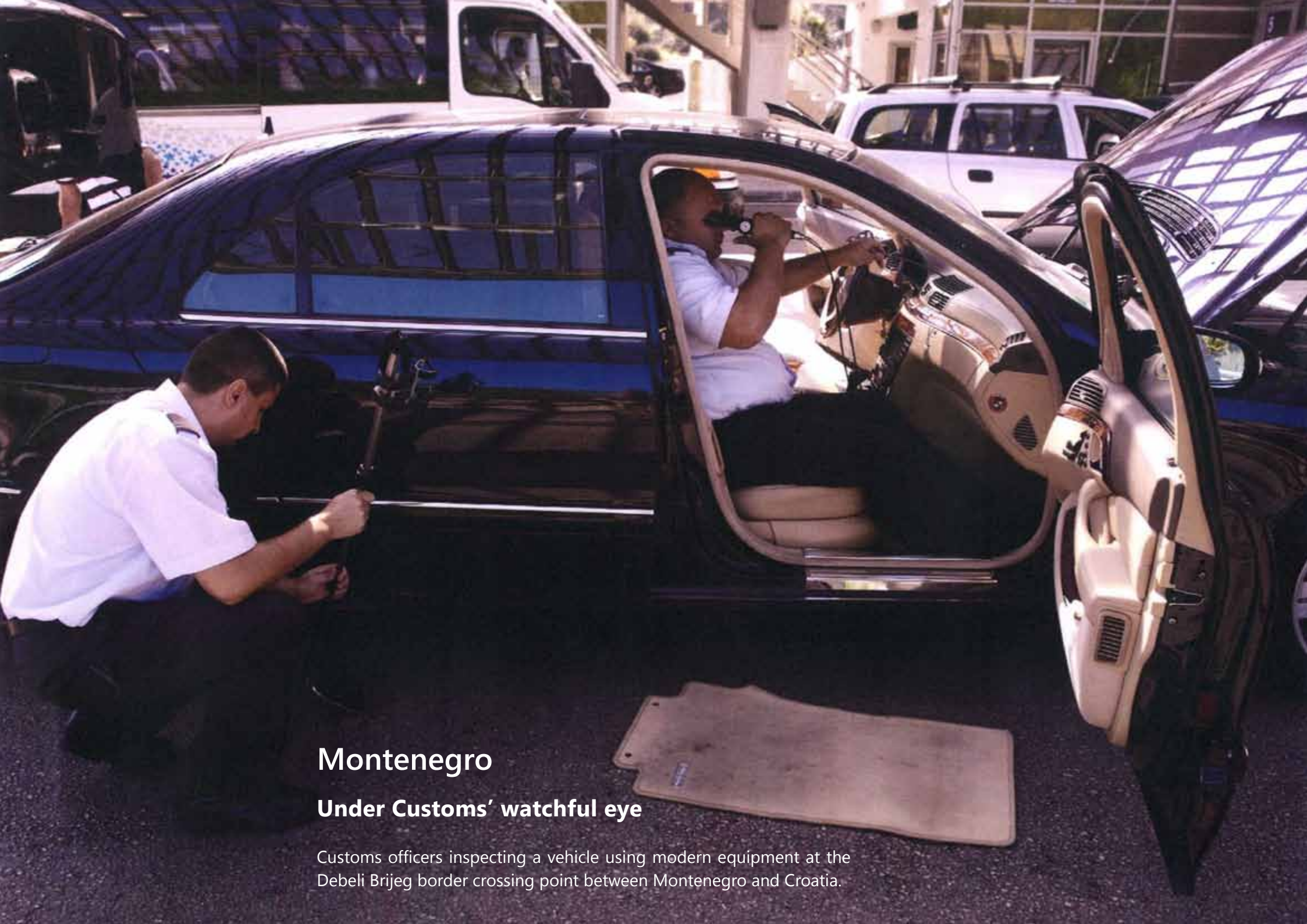
# Mexico

## Working every day to ensure free and secure trade

Every single day Mexican Customs handles import and export operations worth more than 2.5 billion US dollars. Almost one million persons and more than 25,000 trucks cross the country's borders on a daily basis, while 6,500 private vehicles on average clear Customs every hour. Managing this flow of goods, people and means of transport is a challenge that Mexico's Customs officers meet successfully by using a wide range of tools, including state of the art technology. In a similar fashion, clearance of goods is now paperless with the extensive use of cutting-edge tablets and software as seen in the picture, which shows an early morning import operation at the Chaparral entry point located in Tijuana, on the Mexico-United States border.







## Montenegro

### **Under Customs' watchful eye**

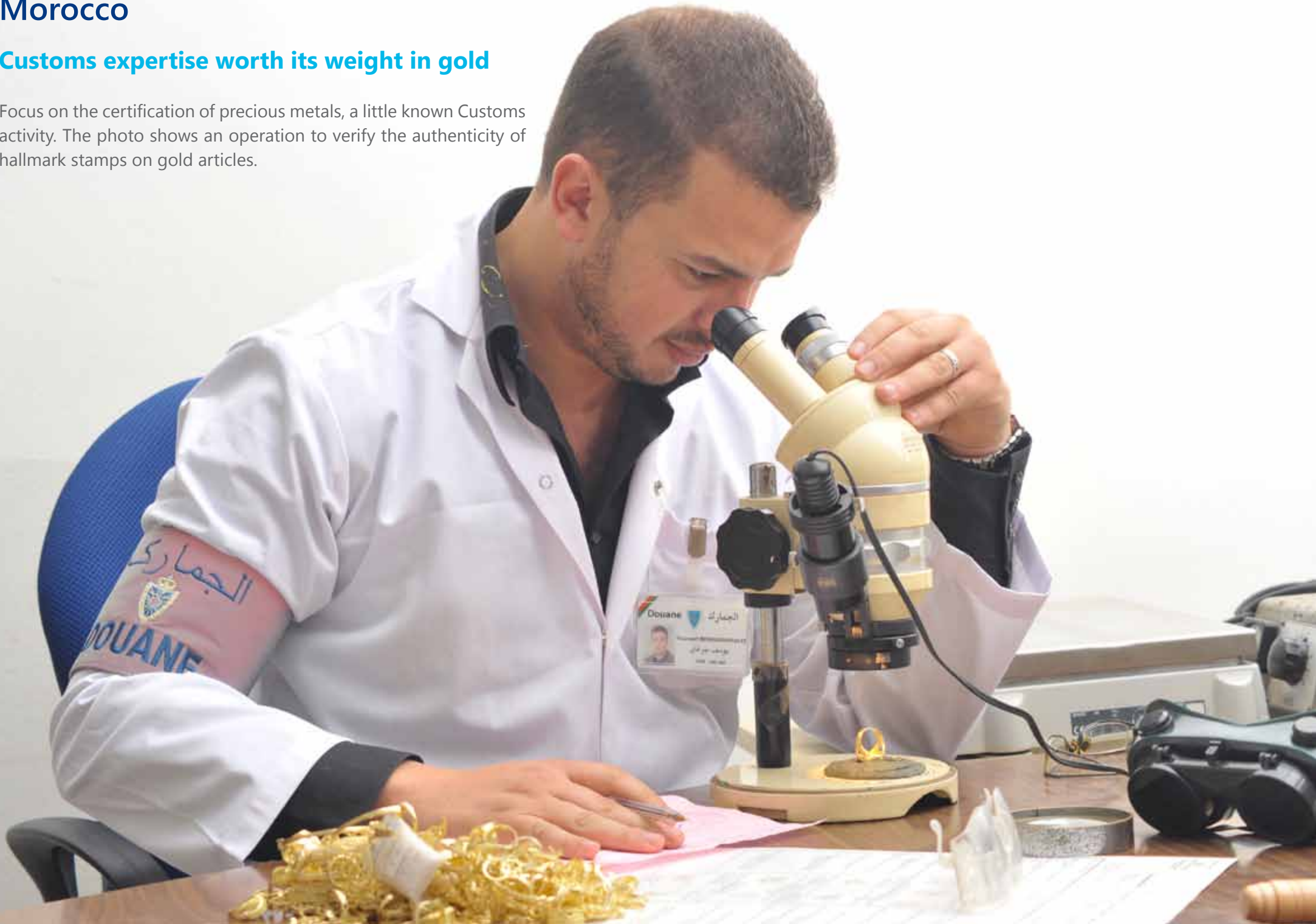
Customs officers inspecting a vehicle using modern equipment at the Debeli Brijeg border crossing point between Montenegro and Croatia.



# Morocco

## Customs expertise worth its weight in gold

Focus on the certification of precious metals, a little known Customs activity. The photo shows an operation to verify the authenticity of hallmark stamps on gold articles.







## New Zealand

### Customs' best friend

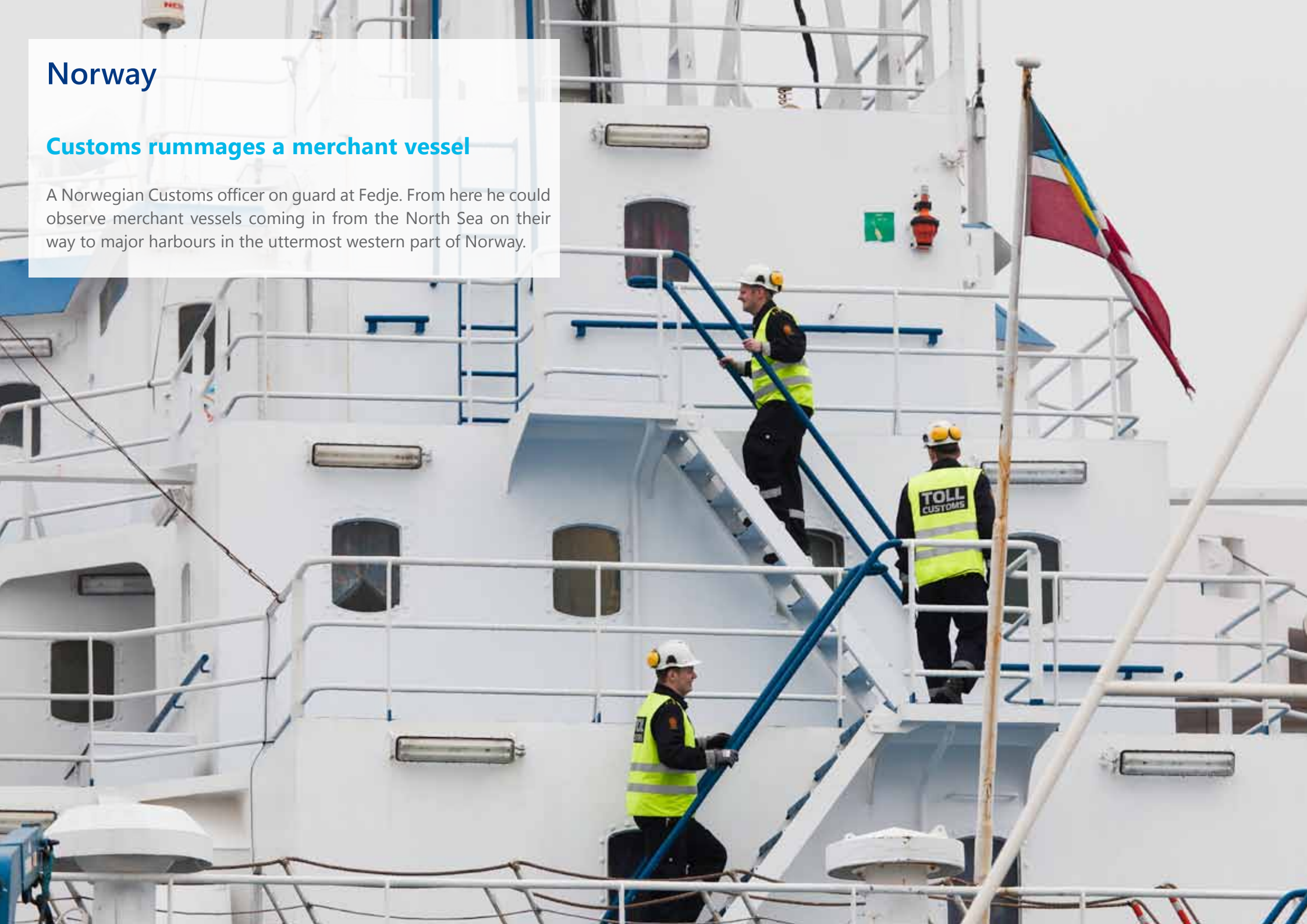
Detector dogs are one of New Zealand Customs' greatest assets, but they are more than just a tool, they are actually an important part of the Customs "whānau" or family, and the bond between a dog and its handler symbolizes the strength needed to work in Customs. The photo was taken at the New Zealand Police Detector Dog Training Centre in Trentham, Upper Hutt on 21 March 2013.



# Norway

## Customs rummages a merchant vessel

A Norwegian Customs officer on guard at Fedje. From here he could observe merchant vessels coming in from the North Sea on their way to major harbours in the uttermost western part of Norway.





# Peru

## Underwater inspections

In October 2012, SUNAT launched a diving programme aimed at strengthening inspections of vessels sailing from the port of Callao in Lima, Peru's capital. The divers have been provided with modern, high precision equipment allowing them to act independently in control tasks, which are filmed by using closed circuit video equipment. They also have underwater cameras and special flashlights in order to record their actions.

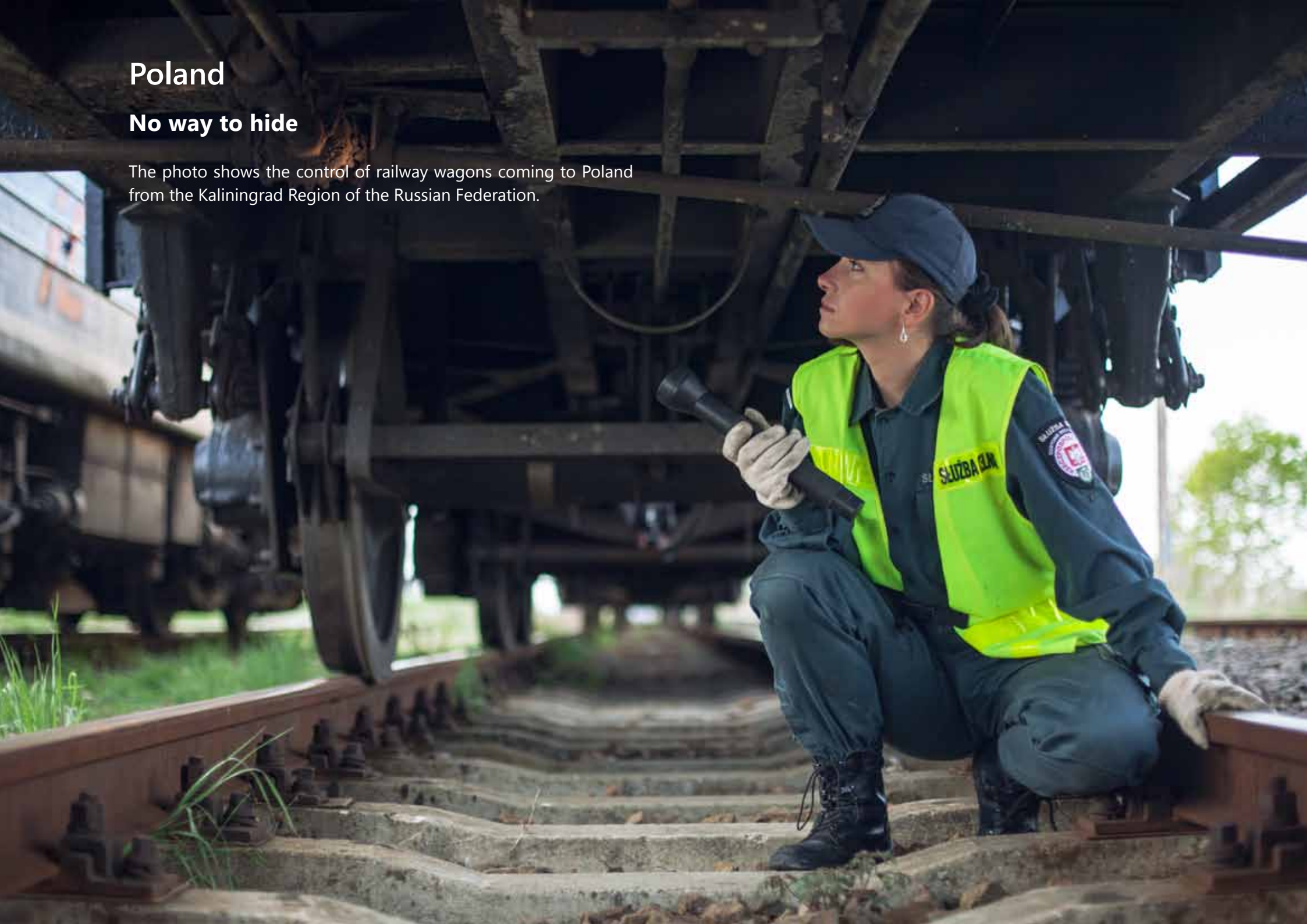




# Poland

## No way to hide

The photo shows the control of railway wagons coming to Poland from the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation.





# Romania

## Customs Watching the EU's borders

A canine team guards the European Union border at Albita Customs Office in the east of Romania. The Customs officer, together with his faithful dog, is watching one of the longest land borders in the world with very considerable trade flowing across the border in both directions.





# Saudi Arabia

## Seized! Customs on the move

Customs has to stay alert and act quickly when fighting illicit trade.







## Serbia

### **Speed is our main advantage**

Rivers are not easy to control and, once an offender is localized, reaction time is crucial. Fortunately, high speed Customs powerboats make it possible to act quickly. Each of them is equipped with the Rivers Information System (RIS), a tool devised to monitor river traffic. The system provides information on the current position of vessels, on the vessels themselves, as well as on the presence of stationary objects, enabling patrolling officers to target high-risk vessels.



# Spain

## A job well done

Nowadays, Customs administrations have at their disposal modern and expensive material. These resources allow Customs officers to better monitor trade and to balance security and trade facilitation measures. The photo shows a Customs officer during an operation against drugs smuggled by sea, which required coordinated action between Marine and Air Units. From the Customs officer's pose, one can presume he is satisfied with the results of the operation.





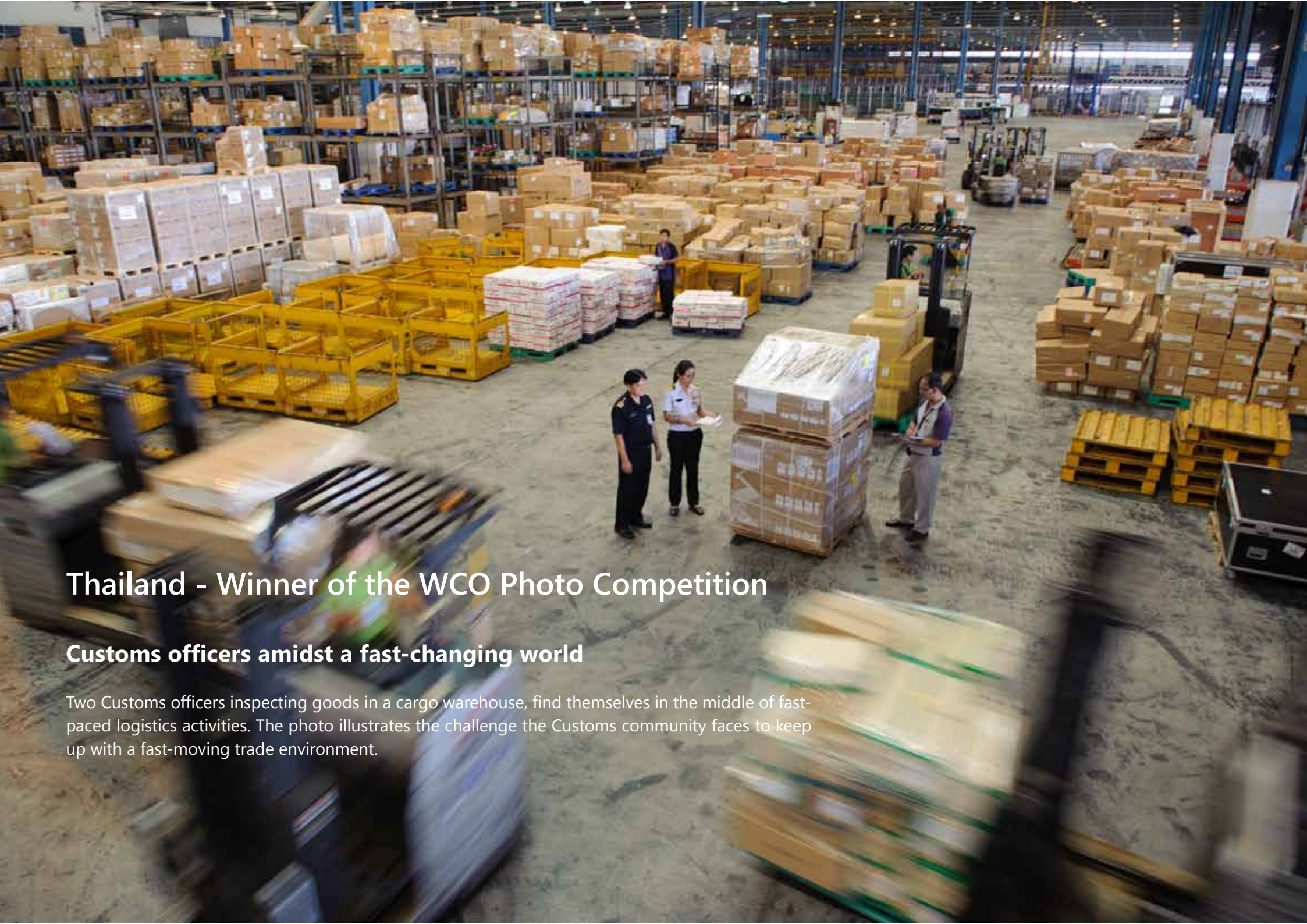
# Sudan

## Smuggling

A Customs officer dismantles a laptop charger used to conceal gold and banknotes.





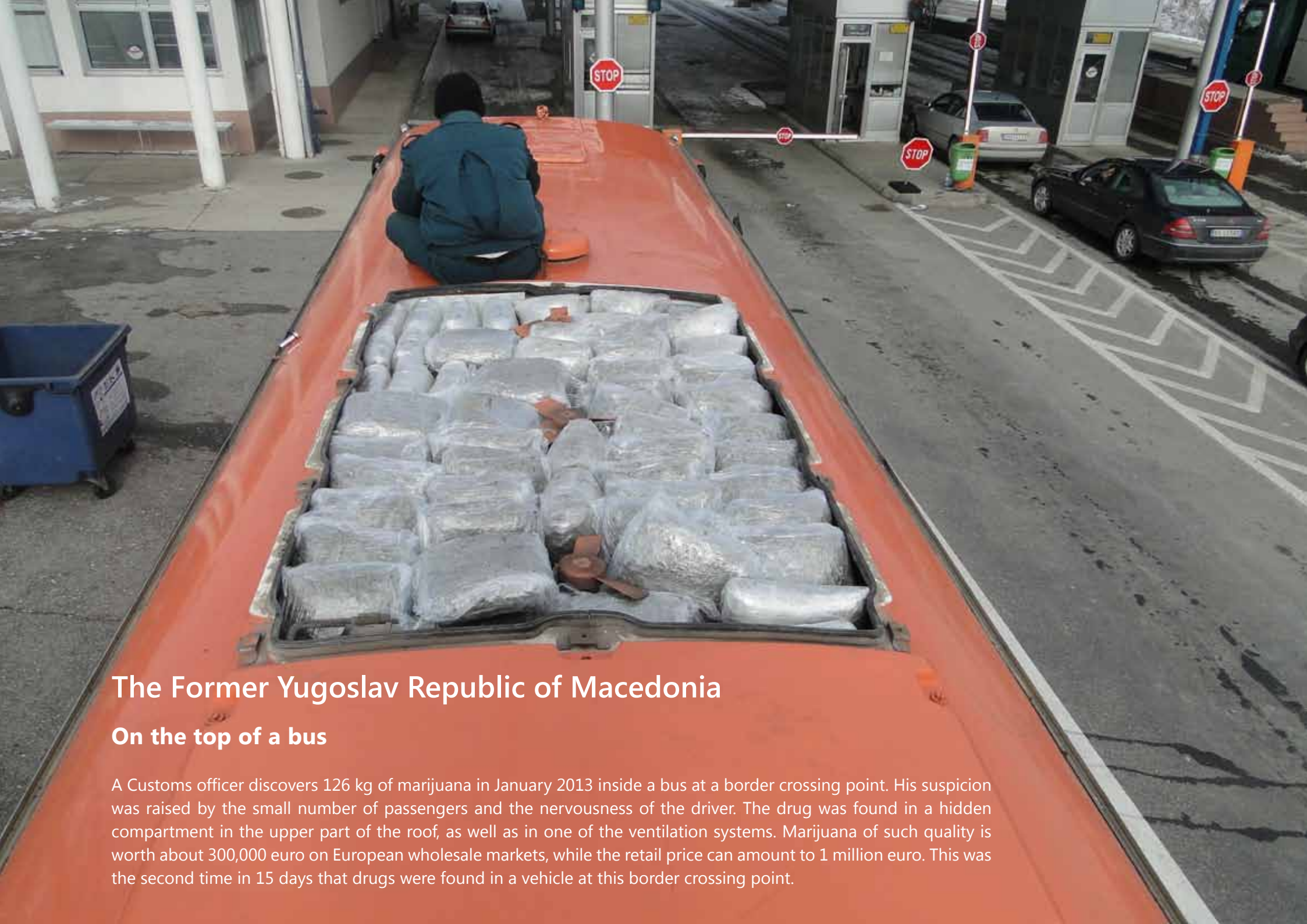


## Thailand - Winner of the WCO Photo Competition

### Customs officers amidst a fast-changing world

Two Customs officers inspecting goods in a cargo warehouse, find themselves in the middle of fast-paced logistics activities. The photo illustrates the challenge the Customs community faces to keep up with a fast-moving trade environment.





## The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

### On the top of a bus

A Customs officer discovers 126 kg of marijuana in January 2013 inside a bus at a border crossing point. His suspicion was raised by the small number of passengers and the nervousness of the driver. The drug was found in a hidden compartment in the upper part of the roof, as well as in one of the ventilation systems. Marijuana of such quality is worth about 300,000 euro on European wholesale markets, while the retail price can amount to 1 million euro. This was the second time in 15 days that drugs were found in a vehicle at this border crossing point.



## United States (CBP)

### Tanker Inspection

A US Customs and Border Protection officer prepares to board an oil tanker, in the distance. He and his partner will inspect the Captain and crew to make sure they have all their proper paperwork. The oil tanker was one of the first to arrive after Hurricane Sandy hit the North East of the United States.

