

Reform of the Union customs legislation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The EU's customs union is the foundation of its single market and its involvement in international trade. The EU agrees on a common set of rules and policies concerning goods crossing the EU borders, which national customs administrations implement and enforce. Customs' mission is to facilitate legitimate trade, collect customs revenue and protect European citizens against products that do not comply with EU food, health and environmental rules, and against security and safety risks including smuggling, crime and terrorism.

Customs authorities supervise all goods entering or leaving the customs union. They use risk management techniques to identify risks and carry out controls of the goods, to ensure that rules are respected and that imported goods are safe and secure for EU citizens. Often, this happens in close cooperation with authorities competent for enforcing sectoral legislation, for example on product safety or animal health.

The EU applies a common customs tariff, which means the same way of calculating the duty for an import in all Member States, in line with the EU's trade agreements, and collects the customs duties for the EU budget. Once a good is in the EU single market, in technical terms 'released for free circulation', it can be moved freely from one Member State to another without customs controls. Any port, airport or external border crossing point is therefore the entrance to the EU. The protection provided by a customs officer in one place, is at the service of all.

However, there are significant differences in the capacity, risk analysis and resources of the national customs administrations. Furthermore, illegal activities can change routes from one entry point to another, making it more difficult to detect. Overall, global trade has evolved rapidly, with a significant increase in terms of volumes, including a rapid expansion of e-commerce. EU rules and standards have evolved as well, calling for an increasing role of customs in performing tasks going beyond revenue collection. Concerns for the protection of EU public interests, EU citizens and business have risen to the fore. Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian aggression of Ukraine have been accelerators of these changes.

The Commission has engaged in a deep reflection to make the customs union fit for the future. This includes in particular a foresight study, which resulted in a report on the future of EU customs 2040 (<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC117813>), and the report and recommendations of the Wise Persons Group on the challenges facing the customs union (https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs-4/wise-persons-group-challenges-facing-customs-union-wpg_en). Evidence gathered by this Group shows that dangerous, non-compliant products still enter the EU market every day and that we leave billions of customs duties uncollected. As a result, it appears that customs in the EU do not yet function "as one" as they should. This leaves the customs union at the mercy of its weakest link.

The European Commission is preparing a proposal to reform the customs union and is assessing its expected impacts. The aim of this consultation is to gather the views and experiences of interested parties (including businesses, trade associations, individuals, public authorities and other stakeholders) regarding

the state of the customs union and possible reform elements.

A summary of the responses to this consultation will be published after the end of the consultation period.

About you

*Language of my contribution

English

*I am giving my contribution as

Business association

*First name

Murat

*Surname

Özdemir

*Email (this won't be published)

murat.oezdemir@ave-intl.de

*Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

AVE International

*Organisation size

Micro (1 to 9 employees)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register

(<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do?redir=false&locale=en>). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

663095315894-59

*Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

Germany

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association', 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

*Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/specific-privacy-statement>)

Information on your interaction with customs

On average, how frequently are you involved in customs operations, procedures and/or declarations?

- Daily or almost daily
 One or more times a month
 Less than once a month

Do you deal regularly with more than one customs office or Member State?

- Yes
 No

If yes, in your experience, do you find that Member States execute similar operations in different ways?
Please provide details.

500 character(s) maximum

We can respond positively to this question. e.g. in major terms such as risk assessment respectively customs valuation.

If you import or export for your business, how do you submit customs declarations?

- You prepare and submit declarations directly into national customs systems

- You rely on customs representatives or brokers to deal with customs declarations on your behalf
- Both

Have your interactions with customs changed due to the UK's withdrawal from the European Union?

- Yes
- No

How has your experience changed in this respect? Please provide details.

500 character(s) maximum

From our perspective, German Custom Authorities handled the entire BREXIT-Issue in much favour of economic operators, as far as their responsibility and reach allowed to do so. Timely and reliable information was provided. More general issues such as missing export notices and the such were being forwarded to European Authorities.

In your own experience, how important are the following customs issues in terms of the administrative workload they generate for business?

	Very important	Quite important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Not important at all	Do n't know
Classification of goods	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Determining the origin of goods	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Valuation of goods for customs	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Correction of errors in declarations	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amendments of declarations because of changes in routing, entry point etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unexpected delays at the border	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adapting to information technology environment to manage customs processes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Getting or verifying data from third parties to use in customs processes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Getting or handling documents for import or export (certificates, supporting documents, permissions, etc.)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Overall views on the Customs Union

In your opinion, how well is customs contributing to the achievement of the below objectives, through its controls of imports and exports?

	V er y w el l	Q ui te w el l	F ai rl y w el l	No t v er y w el l	Not w el l at all	D on ' t kn ow
Protecting EU industrial production and employment from competition of unfair trading practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coping with global geopolitical developments (e.g. new trade agreements, commercial disputes, punitive tariffs, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting circular economy and the sustainable use of resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keeping up-to-date with new business models and technologies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Combatting global pollution (e.g. plastic waste)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Combatting forced labour, child labour and working conditions in international supply chains	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring supply chain due diligence and promoting EU values internationally (e.g. human rights, environmental protection)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Combatting smuggling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preventing the financing of criminal activities (e.g. terrorism)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coping with the consequences of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU (Brexit)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enforcing sanctions and export restrictions for dual use goods (goods used for both civilian and military purposes), e.g. following the Russian invasion of Ukraine	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring compliance with EU standards (animal and plant health, product safety, environment protection, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring compliance with intellectual/industrial protection rules (IPR, counterfeiting...)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring the protection of the EU's financial interests (collection of duties and taxes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please provide details or specific examples

500 character(s) maximum

Better adaptation of customs to new global, commercial or political developments and crisis	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better performance measurement framework, with easier access to comparable quality data	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others (please specify)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please briefly describe your main needs in this context

500 character(s) maximum

No further delay in the implementation of the MASP: Very important

Issues at stake

Administrative burden and potential for simplification

Do you see the need to simplify how information is provided to customs and to reduce administrative burden and formalities?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

How would you suggest that information is provided to customs? Which type of information? Who should provide the information? When should the information be provided and how frequently? Through which channels should information be provided?

500 character(s) maximum

Solely soft copy based communication possibility, at least for AEO-authorized parties, e.g. in the case of an external shock such as the pandemic

Customs' role in enforcing prohibitions and restrictions and compliance with EU standards

Do you face competition from imported goods that do not respect EU standards?

- Yes
- No

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

Importing German Retailers are challenged constantly by goods with low-quality resp. goods of non-conformity, these undermining any level playing field.

Do you have evaluations, estimations, or any other evidence on the above-mentioned challenges, in particular with regard to imported products not aligned with EU standards (prohibitions and restrictions)?

500 character(s) maximum

In your experience, can non-compliant and/or counterfeit goods easily be purchased online?

- Yes
 No

Do you see the need for a better, clearer and more efficient framework for cooperation between customs and other authorities responsible for Market Surveillance, law enforcement (including border guards and police), taxation, etc. for sharing data on the products entering or exiting the EU?

- Yes
 No

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

Should additional information requirements on specific products or EU standards be included in customs processes?

- Yes
 No

Please explain

500 character(s) maximum

The sole providing of information might not improve the situation as long as monitoring processes do not follow accordingly; though, it will support disclosing fraud in case of physical examination of goods.

Contribution to the EU's climate change policies and green agenda

As the fight against climate change is an important overarching objective of the European Union, like any legislative proposal, the intended reform of the Customs Union should take into account links and opportunities to promote the EU's green agenda.

Greening customs: in what areas and through which measures do you see potential for customs authorities/customs controls to reduce their emissions and carbon footprint?

500 character(s) maximum

Possibility of paperless, friction-free communication between economic operator and custom authorities.

In what areas and through which measures could customs contribute to reaching the EU Green Deal's objectives? (E.g. promotion of environmental goods, circular economy, reduction of transport emissions, avoidance of carbon leakage, CO2 footprint of goods)

500 character(s) maximum

One of the essential questions that remain is if customs is technically the appropriate place to put such measures, such as CBAM, into effect.

Policy options

- streamlined handling of non-customs formalities (building on the concept of “single window”).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adapting customs legislation to e-commerce transactions, for example by strengthening supervision of business-to-consumer flows and liability of involved actors for all fiscal and non-fiscal rules	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Integrating the green agenda in the customs agenda and traders behaviours	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have any other suggestions for policy measures to be included in a reform of the Customs Union?

500 character(s) maximum

If the UCC was seized with all possibilities and all facilitations as currently intended, the need for revision would be less urgent.

If new policy measures were introduced, can you please provide an estimation of the magnitude of the impact that each option would entail for you or your organisation?

	High positive impact	Limited positive impact	High negative impact	Limited negative impact	No impact
Better cooperation of customs and non-customs authorities for better risk management, including reinforced advance cargo information and operational coordination	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Partnership with reliable and trusted traders that can use commercial information instead of burdensome administrative requirements to comply with customs obligations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reforming the EU customs governance to provide for an EU layer	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing for a single EU customs information environment, with emphasis on, for example data and the concept of single window	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adapting customs legislation to e-commerce transactions, for example by strengthening supervision of business-to-consumer flows and liability of involved actors for all fiscal and non-fiscal rules	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Integrating the green agenda in the customs agenda and traders behaviours	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Explain

500 character(s) maximum

Adapting Green Deal Measures in customs might not be the most effective way to reach the goal the Green Deal is trying to achieve.

Contact

Contact Form (</eusurvey/runner/contactform/CustomsReform2022>)
