

Customs reform

Ideas from the Wise Persons Group

September 2022

2022 Wise Persons Group Report

- independent group conducting stakeholder hearings
- 10 concrete recommendations

Details: [full report](#), [reports on individual hearings](#)



“The customs union is not fit for purpose.”

“These shortcomings call for an urgent structural change.”

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The recommendations

1. A strong Customs Union with a protective “one external border” is essential to the solidity of the EU’s strategic autonomy and to Europe’s security.
2. EU Customs that play their role in promoting the EU way of life, by making sure that sustainability, safety, human rights, health, and security concerns are upheld in all customs transactions with better cooperation between customs, market surveillance authorities and law enforcement bodies.
3. EU Customs that strengthen their capacity to ensure proper collection of customs duties and taxes at the border to contribute to much needed public spending capacities.

The recommendations

4. Greening of customs so that they play their role in the green transition, starting by making its own operations more sustainable, EU Customs should also make green customs a priority at global level in the World Customs organisation.
5. EU Customs must have a new approach to responsibility and trust with simpler procedures for economic operators in exchange for the assumption of greater responsibilities on their side; it should be centred on a new vision for data gathering, sharing and use for EU-risk management;

What should change?

- 1 • EU level risk analysis, prioritisation, targeting and coordinated action
- 2 • Move to systemic action with more impact
- 3 • Strengthen cooperation with all competent authorities
- 4 • Cross-check data to build trade intelligence
- 5 • Make importer, exporter and e-commerce platforms directly liable
- 6 • Take economic data from multiple sources (stable info only once)
- 7 • Single trader interface, reduce administrative burden for transparent operators, ultimately replacing customs declarations

New approach to data (recommendation 2)

For trade facilitation

- Reduce administrative burden
- Single and central submission of data in the EU
- Facilitated data submission
- Joint development of applications and software EU wide

For customs supervision

- Reduce administrative burden
- Enable systemic action
- Extract 'similar' cases EU wide – same product, producer, retailer, ...
- Identify EU trends, patterns, risks
- Cross-check information with other data-bases (e.g. security, chemicals, certification, ...)

EU risk management and cooperation with other authorities (recommendation 3)

EU risk analysis

- Is needed to address fraud
- EU level targeting, based on EU priorities, uniform implementation
- Better performance measurement
- Informed decision-making: EU level trade view, scope of EU standard problems, etc.

Structured cooperation

- Customs in unique position to supervise supply chain and enforce EU standards
- Offer a service to special authorities, depending on needs and priorities
- Systemic cooperation, cross-check data, collect evidence, act on product/supply chain level

A systems based approach (recommendation 5)

for customs

- Partnership with operators
- Pre-loading/pre-arrival information on the full supply chain and on all consignments
- Information is risk-analysed and cross-checked at EU level (full access by Commission)
- Intelligence-driven, systemic and targeted customs intervention, including financial audits

for traders

- Identify EU based importer / exporter as 'liable'
- Better data quality: from declared information to existing commercial data from the source
- Reduce administrative burden for traders that share their data

Thank you



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