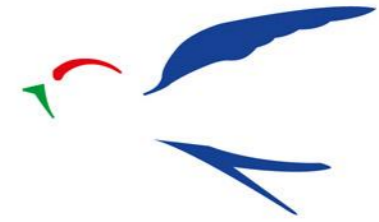




**AGENZIA DELLE DOGANE
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**2014 Italian Presidency
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ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EU COUNCIL 1 July to 31 December 2014

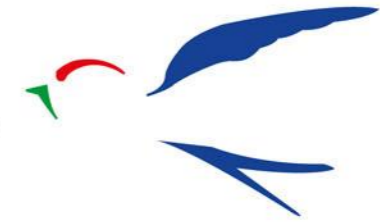




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2014 Italian Presidency
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2014 a year of great changes for the EU Institutions

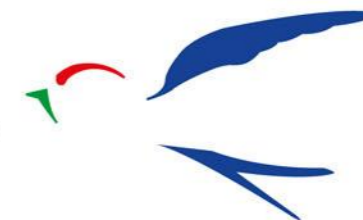
- **European Parliament:** from 22 to 25 May 2014 elections to the European Parliament were held in the European Union
- **European Commission:** vote by the Parliament on the new President, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker and vote on the full Commission and the High Representative for the Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR), Mrs Federica Mogherini.
- **European Council:** new President Mr. Donald Tusk took office on the 1st December until 31 May 2017.



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CUSTOMS UNION - 11 WORKING PARTY MEETINGS -

Legislative proposals:

- ✓ **Revision of the Regulation on Mutual administrative assistance (Reg. EC No.515/97) - submitted on 25 November 2013**

To strengthen cooperation between customs authorities in order to better protect the financial interests of the Union and its Member States against customs fraud and other breaches of customs and agriculture legislation

on 9 September 2014 the Customs Union Working Party reached a large agreement on the Italian Presidency compromise text.

on 23 September 2014, the Permanent Representatives Committee confirmed the agreement reached within the Working Party, paving the way for initiating trilogue meetings with the European Parliament.

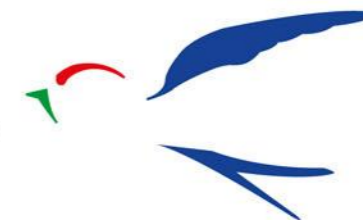
* Trilogue meetings dates: 11 November, 10 and 18 December.



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CUSTOMS UNION

Legislative proposals:

- ✓ **Continuation of the discussions on the definition of a common legal framework for customs infringements and sanctions**

To provide for a list of customs infringements common to all Member States and for the basis for effective, dissuasive and proportionate sanctions to be imposed by Member States in the area of the Customs Union, which is fully harmonised.

The Commission submitted a proposal for a Directive on 17 december 2013;

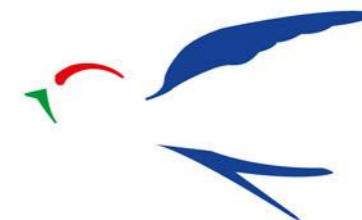
The Italian Presidency has prepared a non-paper with a list of most problematic issues identified by member states, to be dealt within CUWG thematic debates.



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Legislative proposals:

- ✓ **Proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1387/2013** suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural and industrial products.
- ✓ **Proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1388/2013** opening and providing for the management of autonomous tariff quotas of the Union for certain agricultural and industrial products.

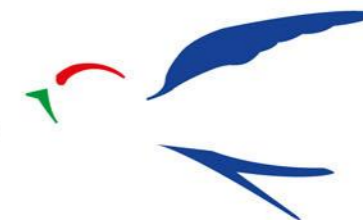
Adopted by Coreper on 10 December 2014 and by the Council (AGRIFISH) on 16 December 2014.



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Non legislative issues:

✓ **COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS on the EU Strategy and Action Plan on customs risk management: Tackling risks, strengthening supply chain security and facilitating trade.**

The Commission Communication has been presented to the Customs Union Working Party at its meeting on 23 September 2014

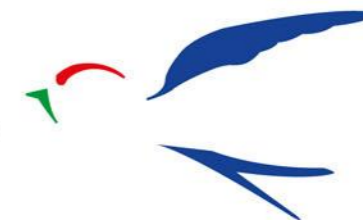
- provision of a roadmap that will lead to the establishment of a single system of customs risk management at EU level;
- solicitation of the full application of the system of risk analysis (provided for in Reg.EC 648/2005 and Reg. (EC) 1875/2006 for larger uniformity in control, through better sharing of information;
- due importance to the fundamental cooperation between customs authorities in risk management in critical areas of transnational violations, such as under-invoicing and intellectual property.



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CUSTOMS UNION

✓ **COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS on the EU Strategy and Action Plan on customs risk management: Tackling risks, strengthening supply chain security and facilitating trade.**

The Commission is required:

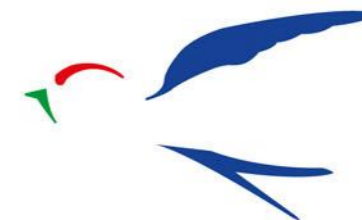
- to assist the MS in improving risk management at the level of the Customs Union, to the consequent benefit in terms of the international flow of goods, supply chain security, as well as the facilitation of legitimate trade ;
- to ensure that the implemented strategy establishes clear roles and responsibilities for the stake-holders;
- to provide a report within 18 months on the results achieved.



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CUSTOMS UNION

✓ **COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS** on the EU Strategy and Action Plan on customs risk management: Tackling risks, strengthening supply chain security and facilitating trade.

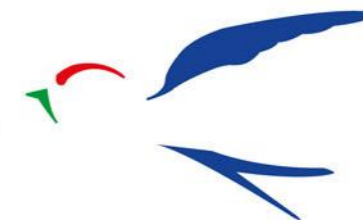
Adopted by Coreper on 21 November 2014 and by the Council (COMPET) on 4 December 2014.



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- ✓ **COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS concerning the Court of Auditors' Special Report No 2/2014: Are preferential trade arrangements appropriately managed?**

Objective of the report:

- *to assess whether the controls put in place by the Commission and the MS were effective;*
- *To assess whether controls had adequately assessed the economic effects of the preferential trade arrangements.*

Conclusions by the Court :

The auditors found that the EU had a loss of revenue and that customs checks carried out by MS can not fully prevent certain imports from unduly benefits.

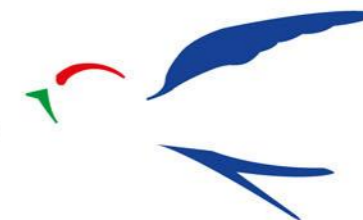
The Commission is required to follow the recommendation listed in the report, in particular by assisting MS to improve the quality of information they provide in the field of administrative cooperation.



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CUSTOMS UNION

- ✓ **COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS concerning the Court of Auditors' Special Report No 2/2014: Are preferential trade arrangements appropriately managed?**

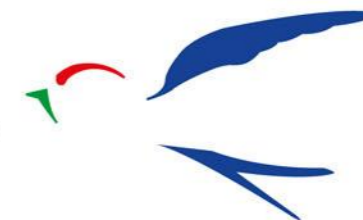
Adopted by Coreper on 21 November 2014 and by the Council (COMPET) on 4 December 2014



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CUSTOMS UNION

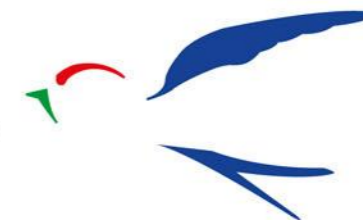
- ✓ **COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS on Electronic Customs and Single Window Implementation in the European Union**
- providing an EU definition of a Single Window environment for customs and laying down its main functions and objectives, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in the Single Window environment for customs at EU and national levels and empowering the authorities responsible for coordinating the implementation and for allocating the appropriate resources;
- Accelerating the harmonisation of data required by different authorities at the EU and national level, building on existing international standards and proceeding with the digitalisation agenda;



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- ✓ **CONCLUSIONS on Electronic Customs and Single Window Implementation in the European Union**

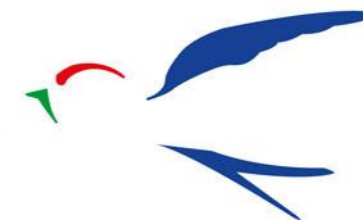
Adopted by Coreper on 10 December and by the COUNCIL (ENVI) on 17 December 2014



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CUSTOMS UNION

- ✓ **Follow-up of the Council Conclusions on the governance reform of the Customs Union (doc. ST 1861/14)**

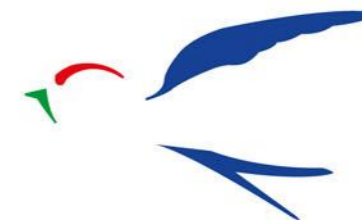
Study and evaluation of the options for a more strategic use of customs related working parties and their best positioning within the Council structure, including the reporting mechanism (as foreseen in the Council Conclusions on the governance reform of the Customs Union adopted in May 2014).



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CUSTOMS UNION

- ✓ **Follow-up of the Council Conclusions on the governance reform of the Customs Union (doc. ST 1861/14)**
- Definition of concept of strategic use of customs related Working Parties;
- Analysis of the current situation of the customs related Working Groups within the Council, in terms of competences, effectiveness of working methods, relationships with other Working Parties and positioning within the Council structures, identifying weaknesses and underlining strong points;
- Analysis of different options of reform underlining, for each option, the strong points (how the option proposed will improve the current situation) and possible remaining weak points.

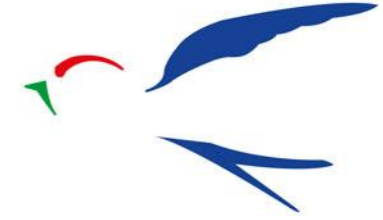
The document have been submitted to the CUWP and agreed by written procedure



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CUSTOMS COOPERATION - 3 PLENARIES AND 3 EXPERTS MEETINGS -

Implementation of the 7th Action Plan of the Strategy for the future customs law enforcement co-operation 1st January 2014 – 31st December 2015

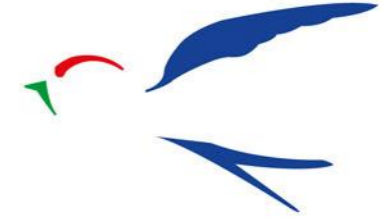
all the reports (interim and final) have been presented to the Plenary for approval or information.



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CUSTOMS COOPERATION

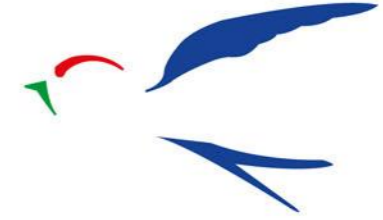
- ❖ For those Actions having a specific link with the corresponding EMPACT/OAP, the Presidency ensured the connection, also inviting the drivers of the EMPACT priorities to present the state of the art in their activities;
- ❖ Participation in the EUROPOL EMPACT NEC meeting presenting the 7th Action Plan and the customs perspective on the priorities of the Policy Cycle;



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CUSTOMS COOPERATION

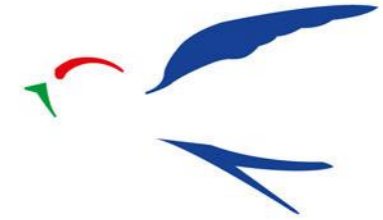
- ❖ presentation of the specific action regarding the emerging threat of environmental crimes (Action 7.10) (COSI meeting in December): the current Presidency of the CCWP Experts will continue to lead the action also under the LV Presidency;
- ❖ organization of a JCO: JCO Warehouse 2 has been carried out with the co-organization of OLAF and the support of TAXUD and EUROPOL. All the 28 MS participated to the common exercise.



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CUSTOMS COOPERATION

On the governance reform of the Customs Cooperation Working Party:

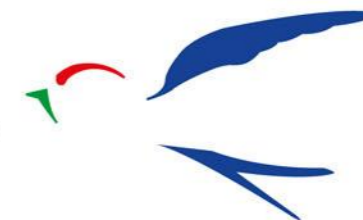
- ❖ drafting of several documents on the proposed re-organization of the internal structure of the Group and its positioning within the Council.
- ❖ The proposal has been put on hold being the Presidency participated in the discussion carried out by the IWG chaired by the President of the CUWP and reflecting the situation and the possible proposals for the reform of the Governance of the Customs Union.
- ❖ Pending the decision on that proposals, the Presidency of the CCWP drafted a document on the way forward for year 2015, agreed with the current Trio Presidencies during an ad hoc meeting and establishing the roadmap for year 2015 with the aim of delivering the preparation and approval of the 8th Action Plan.



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OUTCOME OF THE MAIN MEETINGS ORGANIZED DURING THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY

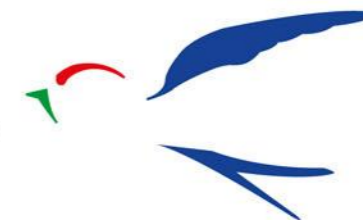
High level meetings	Outcomes
Seminar on Rules of origin in the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean (PEM) Convention (Catania, 16-17 September)	Agreement on a common document containing four areas of potential convergence in view of the entry into force of the Convention, foreseen by June 2015.
Seminar on e-Customs revision and Single Window (Venice, 14-15 October)	Venice Declaration of the Heads of Customs Administrations of EU Member States and of the European Commission on electronic customs and Single Window implementation in the European Union.
Customs Union Working Party (Rome, 13 November)	Presentation to the Group of the draft Council Conclusion on e-customs and Single Window implementation in the European Union.



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Two High Level Meetings :

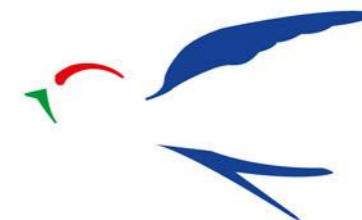
- ❖ to enhance trade facilitations between EU and Mediterranean and Balkan areas, by implementing the Regional Convention on preferential Pan-Euro-Med rules of origin – Catania Seminar, 16th-17th September 2014
- ❖ to promote an EU commitment to speed up the e-Customs revision (including the development of a Customs Single Window for IT systems/interfaces) -Venice Seminar, 14th-15th October 2014



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Catania High-Level Seminar on PEM Convention, 16th-17th September 2014

Objective : to speed up the process of ratification of the Regional Convention on preferential pan-Euro-Mediterranean rules of origin, enlarging the cooperation in the Mediterranean area between the EU and all partner countries.

Four areas of potential convergence, in view of the entry into force of the Convention, foreseen by June 2015:

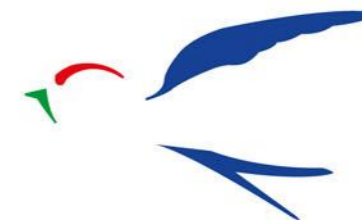
- To envisage abolishing the prohibition of Duty drawback of Art. 14 of appendix I to the Convention;
- To examine the decision making process (modalities) to amend/supplement appendix II to the Convention;
- Openness to examine the “three corners of the triangle”: cumulation, tolerances, list rules, bearing in mind the principle of territoriality and derogation thereto (in respect of rules for textile products);
- To further examine the pros and cons of expressing the sugar limitation in weight and/or value (bearing in mind the specific characteristics of certain products) and, more generally, consider the need for further simplification of the product specific rules for (processed) agricultural products.



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Venice High-level Seminar on Single Window implementation in the European Union, 14th-15th October 2014

Final declaration (priorities):

- To provide an EU definition of a Single Window environment for customs and laying down its main functions and objectives, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in the Single Window environment for customs at EU and national levels and empowering the authorities responsible for coordinating implementation and allocating appropriate resources;
- To improve coordination between departments in the European Commission;
- To accelerate the harmonisation of required data by different authorities at the EU and national level, building on existing international standards and proceeding with the digitalisation agenda;
- To prepare a work plan in cooperation with the involved stakeholders in accordance with MASP and UCC Work Programme to enable starting soon the progressive implementation of the EU Single Window;
- To provide standardised access to EU certificates for national customs administrations, for their management and their automated acceptance.