



# **e-Customs in the light of NCTS experience**

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# NCTS Assets: trust "we can do it!"



- NCTS is operational "end to end", effective, reliable and resilient: it delivers and generates learning;
- NCTS customs processes (geographical distribution);
- Stakeholders shared experience;
- Effective network of National Legal/Project/Operational teams working in confidence;
- Method, co-ordination & governance;
- IT systems and operational processes of MS, COM and Traders;
- Confidence that trans European Customs interoperability is achievable, with CCN/CSI;
- Effectiveness of the Common/National/External domains responsibility model to address subsidiarity & diversity;
- the "Blue/Yellow" area: MCC/ECN;
- Effectiveness of C200X programmes;

# NCTS dynamic



- NCTS took more than 9 years to be implemented, will be completed end 2005;
- “paper less” transition over 3 years;
- traders connectivity surged in 2003 & 4;
- NCTS Community actions: 80 M€ so far;
- From a functional & technical challenge at start to a co-ordination one: 29 National Administrations;
- Technology was not obstructive;

# NCTS difficulty



- “29” trader interfaces (MS + EFTA);
- MCC perceived as disruptive by the traders, as being “NCTS islands” in the national Customs systems; Is harmonisation desirable, feasible?
- difficult collaboration between COM and MCC MS;
- took too long!!!
  - get organised;
  - build trust;
  - get resources;
  - co-ordination latency;
  - do the job.

# e-Customs challenges



- Establish its business case;
- Need to further clarify & agree “Customs Processes”, set up the legal instruments;
- Further geographical distribution of Customs processes;
- Coherence between national plannings and e-Customs ones;
- Commitment for significant resources from all stakeholders, will compete for resource with EMCS and VIESII;
- High expectation for an “External domain” solution;
- Get it quick: already a 7 years time span... for a at least “5” times bigger venture than NCTS...
- transition to “paper less” must be short, traders need as well to be ready in time;
- Major co-ordination challenge: 25 MS, all customs regimes, legacy, single window, single access point, central clearance, interface with VAT and Excises;

# e-Customs implementation principles



- **Get a start: approval of a MASP, decision, business case;**
- Go faster by benefiting of NCTS assets for “interoperability”:
  - method, co-ordination, governance, funding;
  - CCN/CSI;
  - stakeholder experience & network;
  - distributed approach with flexibility, outright centralisation is not sustainable under current environment;
- Open a Community thread of activity for the “accessibility”: the Single Access Point (SAP) & Com Cust Portal (CCP);
- Strengthen central co-ordination;
- Distribute the work by leveraging Working Groups (C2007 “Joint actions”);
- Stakeholders to secure the necessary planning & resource in time!!!
- **Do the job in time according an agreed MASP!**

# e-Customs IT implementation



- Governance:
  - CC, Council decision, C2007 programme;
  - e-Customs Group, its TCG & an TCG IT subgroup;
  - DG TAXUD project management and co-ordination;
- Interoperability:
  - the NCTS way, at 25 MS;
  - Single Window: major challenge, yet to be analysed;
- Accessibility:
  - MS Automated Customs Systems: up to each MS;
  - trader systems;
  - CCP and SAP: joined actions from “willing MS” (reinforced co-operation), traders, supported & facilitated by COM...;

# Interoperability Implementation



- Export & Import Control Systems, Central Clearance: “à la NCTS”;
- Risk Analysis under construction;
- (A)EO Register: likely hybrid central/distributed systems;
- Single Window: Huge co-ordination and technical challenge as 26 \* x agencies to be interconnected!
- Interface with other regimes: EMCS, VAT;

# Accessibility implementation



- MS Automated Clearance Systems: to be implemented by MS according legal deadlines;
- Trader Automated systems: be ready on time...
- Common Customs Portal:
  - a Web of Web sites to deliver comprehensive info to Economic Operators;
  - integrate MS and COM components;
- Single Access Point:  
Allow the trader to choose its preferred single e-access point in Europe amongst those available (single customs mailbox from a trader perspective)

# Conclusion



- NCTS is a “proven” stepping stone to enter e-Customs;
- The MASP is build on “NCTS” culture, adding the dimension of the “accessibility”;
- e-Customs must benefit from the investments made for NCTS while addressing lessons learned;
- The challenge for e-Customs is to do “5” time more with “twice” the budget in less time than NCTS !!!
- e-Customs will have to be directive, inventive & coordinated to achieve against expectation but must remain aware of the limits of the consensual approach @ “25+1”.