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**ELECTRONIC CUSTOMS COORDINATION GROUP
JOINTLY WITH THE TRADE CONTACT GROUP**

Summary

of the **15th** meeting held in Brussels on 13-14 **April 2016**

AGENDA

15th Electronic Customs Coordination Group Meeting joint with Trade Contact Group

Address: **Albert Borchette Conference Centre,**
36 rue **Froissart**

Wednesday, 13 April 2016

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Wednesday, 13 April 2016

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY THE COMMISSION (5')

The **Chair**, Mr. F. Janssens, welcomed the delegates to the 15th meeting of the Electronic Customs Coordination Group (ECCG) held together with the Trade Contact Group (TCG) and announced the simultaneous interpretation available.

The **Chair** started the meeting by strongly condemning the recent attacks in Brussels and expressing deep concern about the critical condition of the Polish delegate affected by these acts of violence.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (10')

The **Chair** presented the agenda of the meeting which was adopted as proposed.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ECCG14 OF 30TH NOVEMBER – 1ST DECEMBER 2015 - DOCUMENT TAXUD.A.3(2015) 1504282 (10')

The **Chair** informed that the minutes of the 14th ECCG meeting joint with the TCG, which took place on 30/11/2015 – 01/12/2015, were published on 30/03/2016 (available on [CIRCABC](#)).

In reference to the query on page 12 related to the earliest date MS may deploy ICS2.0, **WSC** noted that **COM** confirmed this date as dependent upon the full deployment of the centralized support functions, most notably the common repository. **WSC** suggested that since multiple filing constitutes an integral part of the full deployment process, **COM**'s reply should reflect that both multiple filing and the ENS data set are dependent upon the full deployment of the centralized support functions. The requested data should be contingent upon the common repository being present. **WSC** further inquired to add this clarification to the minutes.

The **Chair** agreed and took the opportunity to give a brief summary of the ICS2.0 project status. The development and running project costs exceed the current C2020 programme budget allocations. After the recent senior management change, the new Director General (DG) has requested an update of the project roadmap. Until now, two possible options have been considered, to either maximise existing resources or to find and develop new resources as inscribed in the Business Case (BC) or the Vision Document (VD). The **Chair** further announced that the next meeting of the Customs Management Committee (CMC) will take place at the end of April and the DG is expected to provide orientation on resuming the ICS2.0 activities. The first stage of activities will be limited to the new data set, the creation of the repository and the kickoff of the shared trader interface followed by the system specifications package, including the L4 BMPs. The **Chair** noted that the operations will start at a lower capacity since additional equipment would have to be obtained under the first budget cycle of the new programme. **COM** will report to the ECCG at the end of June 2016 and to the CPG at the beginning of July 2016. The BC and the VD should be updated in alignment with the decision taken by the DG and the Commissioner. The risk analysis and risk management remain open issues due to budgetary limitations. The **Chair** mentioned that other avenues of assistance need to be explored to achieve progress towards risk management.

In regards to ICS2.0, **EEA** inquired whether trade will operate with different data sets in parallel over a period of time. As **COM** confirmed, noting that the transition from ICS1 to ICS2.0 will be gradual and that time gaps are foreseen, the specific aspects of which will be discussed in the second half of 2016.

With respect to the timing of operational systems, **AEA** requested confirmation that the 2020 start date will be respected no matter which scenario is chosen for trade. **COM** confirmed that the date remains the same, adding that the transition period may be reduced if the budget allows.

UK recalled that **COM** promised to prepare a document to examine various scenarios, specifically targeted at data feeding into Surveillance 2. In addition, **UK** emphasised that different solutions need to be evaluated in terms of migration strategies, as discussed during the MASP review. **COM** agreed that system migration should be documented. **COM** will draft a proposal on a system by system basis before the start of operations.

The minutes were adopted taking into account **WSC**'s request.

3. ACTION LIST FROM PREVIOUS PLENARY MEETINGS (15')

The **Chair** gave an overview of the Action List from previous meetings (available on [CIRCABC](#)).

Action 1: open (to be addressed at the end of summer due to conflicting priorities)

Action 2: closed (item 14 of the agenda to address this issue).

Action 3: closed (**COM** confirmed that there will not be any special RfCs. This does not apply to national administrations as they may need to implement certain changes, which are not orchestrated at the EU level).

Action 4: closed (planning to be presented during the meeting).

UK requested information on the planned date for RfC29. In relation to this, **COM** explained that the list of sensitive goods in the context of NCTS will become obsolete from 01/05/2016 and therefore the updates would have to be made in the reference data (CS/RD). The discussions have been held in the operational group with MS analysing how to treat this issue from IT system perspective.

4. PRESENTATION OF EU CUSTOMS DATA MODEL (40')

COM held a presentation on the principles, legal framework and objectives of the EU Customs Data Model (CDM).

The EU CDM, built upon and compatible with the World Customs Organisation Data Model (WCO DM) and includes the data related to the EU legislation in the customs field. The EU CDM will be published end May 2016 on the TAXUDn pages of the EUROPA web site in several formats and, at a later stage, in different languages. In addition the COM is preparing the guidelines on the UCC Annex B and it will provide information regarding the access to EU CDM in the coming weeks.

EEA questioned whether the data sets that appear in the UCC DA may be amended at some stage, in particular with regard to simplified declarations. **COM** pointed out that the EU CDM is another way of presenting the legal provisions. In other words, the EU Customs Data model will only be modified in line with legal amendments (UCC DA and IA annexes). The data model is before all a most interesting tool for important technical Customs work in the framework of EU Customs digitalisation. **COM** stated that the data elements are only subject to change in the future by means of legal proposals that would be adopted, except for corrections which would only be published in the OJ and then taken over in the EU CDM.

FR commented that it is considering using the GEFEG.FX version, although it has not yet defined the planning process for this tool. **COM** said that in case other formats are used, COM will cooperate with MS to find the most optimal solution for MS to meet their national obligations. It is, therefore, the responsibility of MS to choose the appropriate tools for applying the EU CDM.

NL inquired about the next steps to take on finalizing the EU CDM and asked whether this model would be subject to another approval procedure. **COM** pointed out that the annexes of the legislation generated by the tool are published in the OJ. Therefore, no separate approval of the data model is required since the published content has been adopted under COM's legislative procedure. **COM** noted that the fine-tuning of the data mapping is currently in progress.

UK inquired about the different EU CDM formats. **COM** stated that every new release version of the EU CDM will be accompanied by a release in other formats. However, MS may also ask for other formats if needed. Some of the benefits of GEFEG.FX include facilitation in terms of data usage and the inclusion of other national elements. Unlike the Excel format presentations, this tool does not require any translations. **COM** invited the delegates to explore the features of this tool when it becomes available.

5. EU SINGLE WINDOW PROJECT

5.1 STATUS REPORTING CVED (15')

COM gave a presentation (available on [CIRCABC](#)) on the status of the IT implementation and Conformance Test (CT) plan. **COM** informed that Release 1.1.4 is currently in production and it is aligned with TRACES v 6.22. This release will no longer be available starting Q2 2017. The deployment

of Release 1.2.0, which will contain corrective changes and multiple versioning for the MS to implement, will start in Q2 2016. The development of Release 1.3.0 is currently ongoing. This release will integrate TRACES v6.3.0 changes scheduled for the end of 2016. **COM** informed that the CT for TRACES v6.3.0 will not impact customs but only the veterinary component. Therefore, there is no need for further enhancement until the end of 2016. In addition, DG SANTE will release the TRACES New Technology (NT) during 2016-2017. **COM** noted that the transition period from TRACES v6.22 and v6.3.0 to TRACES NT will last for six months. Presently, **COM** is monitoring the performance of TRACES NT and conducting CT with two MS (CY and PL). **COM** recalled that MS should notify **COM** three months in advance when they are ready to perform CT in order to set up the testing environment.

5.2 SW NEXT STEPS (15')

COM gave a presentation (available on [CIRCABC](#)) on the SW next steps. **COM** informed that five MS are currently in production (CZ, IE, SI, LV and BG), which provides an opportunity to assess the performance of the project and foster improvements for the application. The updated BPM for EU SW-CVED on the corrective maintenance and improvements will serve as a baseline for the upcoming 1.2.0 and 1.3.0 Releases. The information note will be published in April 2016 and the updated models will also be available in ARIS. Additionally, **COM** pointed out that the MS currently in production may decide whether to perform CT for 1.2.0 and 1.3.0 Releases, or proceed directly with the CT of Release 1.3.0. **COM** highlighted that the MS have to confirm their decision regarding the CTs as soon as possible for planning purposes.

COM further noted that the mission reports will be published on CIRCABC in order for MS to decide on their project implementation. **COM** is currently working on the guidelines for the end-to-end EU SW-CVED process flow which will assist MS to better understand system implementation at a national level. **COM** informed that a corrigendum will be issued for some minor discrepancies identified in the Annex to RfCs 6, 11 and 14. In addition, **COM** mentioned that the project was presented and discussed in a joint meeting with the Expert Group of Veterinary and Customs Services which took place on 08/03/2016. The meeting examined the controls on the introduction of live stock and products of animal origin in the Union.

FR deemed it important to incorporate not only the digital document, but also the certificate quantity management in the system since the absence of that functionality might cause complications. **COM** acknowledged the concern, noting that the solution for the quantity management is being discussed as part of the project evolution, envisaging the expansion of the scope of certificates and enhancement of the EU SW-CVED functionalities. DG SANTE notified that a legal framework would be required for the certificate quantity management function. **COM** added that the BC for the Phase 2 of the EU Customs SW project, covering new certificates should also include improvements and updates to the EU SW SW-CVED Phase 1.

NL commented on the RfC procedure and asked whether discussions with MS are foreseen for the RfC approval or a written procedure would suffice. Further, **NL** enquired about the interconnection of the SW concept with trader portals, ICS2.0 and the rest of the initiatives, stressing the importance of discussing these points at the next CBG meeting. **COM** said that considerable progress has been made at the pilot phase of EU SW-CVED. **COM** noted that the discussions will be formalised in the next CBG meeting. The EU Customs SW currently is limited to the exchange of information on certificates handled by customs, which are not included in the customs legislation. **COM** stated that single access is not part of SW. However, discussions should take place to determine whether there is a need to have a single access point for each system and if this will be mandatory or optional. **COM** also added that the corrective maintenance of the BPMs did not include a formal review cycle with MS, as the changes were minor and limited to fixing the encountered defects. In September 2016, the draft guidelines and draft BC will be made available for MS review with the intention to present the APOs to the CBG meeting in October.

CCN2 – PROJECT STATUS (15')

COM gave a presentation (available on [CIRCABC](#)) on the CCN2 project. The scope of the presentation covered the progress and status of ongoing activities. Releases 1 and 1.5 will be in production according to the planning in 2017. Release 1, currently in the development and testing phase, is available for NA testing in the CCN2 Pilot Playground. Release 1 will implement the key points for the first project that will use CCN2, such as Customs Decision (CD). The end of the testing period is foreseen for September

2016. The CT connectivity tests are planned for November 2016. Almost all reviews for Release 1 documentation have been finished. Release 1.5 activities have started and the first deliverables are submitted. Furthermore, **COM** pointed out that the specifications for CCN2 Release 2 have started. **COM** invited the participants to register for the CCN2 developer trainings.

FR queried about a call for expression of interest for the training. **COM** said that it has been launched and the invitation will be sent at a later stage.

6. UNIFORM USER MANAGEMENT & DIGITAL SIGNATURES (UUM & DS) – PROJECT STATUS AND WAY FORWARD (30')

COM gave a presentation (available on [CIRCABC](#)) on the UUM&DS project activities. The project is currently in the implementation phase. The preparation for the testing activities has started with the support of 18 collaborating MS. The approved testing activity lasts from 2016 until Q3 2017 when the system is scheduled for production. The CT test design specifications (TDS) are being prepared on the basis of the Master Test Plan (MTP), as well as the Acceptance Test Plan (ATP) which is considered the most important phase of the project. **COM** is finalising the test cases that pertain to the CT, the preparation for the MS configuration and the data for the economic operators (EO). Additionally, since there are no specific legal provisions for identity and access management in the UUM&DS project, **COM** noted that it intends to issue core test cases for validation that will be obligatory for all MS. In terms of supplementary functionalities, an optional test case will be provided to MS for support. **COM** informed that the Terms of Collaboration (ToC) include all the provisions that ensure and secure authorised access for the EOs to the trans-European systems. **COM** pointed out that the provisions are aligned with the standard and general provisions of the trans-European systems. The protection of personal data will also be included in the ToC per MS request.

COM further informed that DG TAXUD is working in close collaboration with DG CNECT and DG to ensure that the planned specifications and the structure of the system messages are fully compliant with the provisions of the eIDAS regulation and will enable cross-border identifications. **COM** asked MS to nominate 2 SPOCs, one as a project manager for UUM&DS to coordinate the testing activities and the other to provide national support in the event that an MS related issue arises. Additionally, the technical team will be available to MS to provide further clarification or guidance on technical issues during the implementation phase.

7. TDA, UCC WP & IMPLEMENTATION (40')

- *Information on the legal aspects as well as on the implementation*

COM informed the delegates that the Transitional Delegated Act (TDA) was published in the EU Official Journal on 15/03/2016 as Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/341. After the publication, **COM** has been working on its correcting act¹ which was adopted by **COM** on 08/04/2016 and submitted to the Council and the European Parliament for scrutiny. **COM** has been in negotiations with Council and Parliament concerning their agreement to shorten the objection period in order to have the correcting act published as soon as possible. The Council has given its agreement, but the Parliament will not be able to give its agreement due to internal procedural rules. Consequently, the correcting act will not be published before mid-May 2016. In respect to the measures that have to be taken before the TDA comes into force, **COM** sent a note to MS requesting the points of contact for the exchange of information until the UCC Customs Decisions system becomes available. The deadline to provide this information is 20/04/2016 after which the list of MS contact point will be published in *Europa* website.

FR inquired about the timing of the TDA consolidated version containing the linguistic corrections. **COM** confirmed that the 15/03/2016 publication did not contain the linguistic corrigendum. The

¹ COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... correcting Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/341 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 952/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards transitional rules for certain provisions of the Union Customs Code where the relevant electronic systems are not yet operational and amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/2446

corrective procedure will be initiated on 20/04/2016 and MS were already requested to provide linguistic comments on the TDA as published on 15/03/2016.

COM held a presentation on the UCC Work Programme (UCC WP) providing its overview, roadmap and adoption procedure. On 11/04/2014, COM adopted the updated UCC WP by means of a new Commission Implementing Decision² taking into account the latest legal, transitional and operational developments for the UCC. The new Decision entails the obligation to MS and COM to share information on the planning and progress in the implementation of each of the IT systems. This includes the requirement for MS to transmit their national project and migration plans and the requirement for COM to publish this information on its website.

- *Presentation of the template for reporting national planning*

On 12/04/2016, COM published a note to the CCC-GEN, ECCG and TCG on the adoption and implementation of the UCC WP and the review of the national planning template. The external review cycle will be open until 29/04/2016 to provide comments.

COM presented the aim, structure, content and time schedule of the template. The first versions of the national plans per project are expected to be transmitted to COM by 01/10/2016. The plans should be updated by MS as necessary, and at least twice per year in March and October.

FR queried which projects should be reported on for 01/10/2016. **COM** explained that indicative planning should be reported for all of the projects. **FR** remarked that this would be complicated because the project schedule in FR has not been finalised yet. **COM** highlighted that any valuable indicative information on the project planning would be useful both for the trade and for other national administrations. The final planning version with confirmed dates must be provided six months prior to deployment.

SE informed that the first project plan for customs warehousing will be sent to COM at the end of April 2016, as the start of deployment would be in the beginning of November 2016.

NL remarked that reporting project information every six months generates burdensome work, pointing out that NL was not yet ready for reporting three or four years in advance before the project deployment. In addition, projects such as the UCC Notification of Arrival, Presentation Notification and Temporary Storage are linked and dependent on the planning of the ICS2.0 project, therefore, it is impossible to provide information before 01/10/2016. **COM** said that it is important to inform the traders about the national plans in order to bring the anticipations to light. Not all of the milestones have to be indicated in the first versions of the plans, however, the most important points should be communicated, especially for the systems which would be deployed in the nearest future.

UK questioned the value of reporting on the projects that would be deployed towards 2019-2020. Information and planning of early projects, such as REX and UCC Customs Decisions, especially in relation to the relevant interfaces with the traders, would be more valuable and therefore should be dealt with more critically. **COM** pointed out that the planning for centrally developed and centrally operated EU-wide information systems would be worked out between COM and MS together. The planning of purely national systems that MS define at a national level is essential to be reported to the traders. **COM** said that the information on the projects that would be deployed first is of the primary importance, however, it is also beneficial to know the planning of the later ones. Reacting to the UK's remark on the phased implementation of the IT systems, **COM** confirmed that providing such information is important.

FR was sceptical of providing information on the projects three years in advance, underlining that FR updates project planning related information on their website 18 months in advance.

AT queried whether MS have to report on the hybrid systems, such as the UCC Customs Decisions. **COM** explained that for such projects the UCC WP stipulates a fixed date by which central and national components have to be operational.

² Published in OJ L 99 on 15/04/2016: Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/578 of 11 April 2016 establishing the Work Programme relating to the development and deployment of the electronic systems provided for in the Union Customs Code

AEA welcomed the reporting approach, saying that it was the only way to ensure consistency of information provided by MS. In terms of the timing, **AEA** remarked that several MS have already informed the traders about the changes to the national systems to be implemented by the end of 2016, therefore, 01/10/2016 is a date too late for the first national project plan submissions. Concerning the content of planning, **AEA** encouraged COM and MS to provide more details in the national plans concerning the expected changes. **AEA** also requested COM to take into account the comments on the template from the trade associations. **COM** welcomed the comments from the traders, explaining that 01/10/2016 is the latest date by which the plans have to be submitted. The legal provisions stipulate that the plans should be made available at least six months in advance before the implementation of the changes. Concerning the level of detail in the national plans, **COM** pointed out that the links to the pages of the customs administration websites where the technical specifications are published, would be provided.

EEA concurred with AEA regarding the six months timeframe, stressing that the trade has been consistently asking for the time period between 18 months and two years.

WSC supported AEA with respect to full transparency and EEA with respect to six months period. **WSC** inquired how in the context of the PoUS system the trans-European deployment date would coincide with the national deployments in different timeframes. **WSC** remarked that PoUS cannot work properly unless all the components are in place. **COM** responded that the transitional period would be running until the last MS is ready, therefore, until that time the traders would be allowed to use the transitional measures.

8. MASP REVISION 2016: REVIEW OF AUTHOR'S POSITIONS TO ECCG AND TCG COMMENTS (60')

COM held a presentation (available on [CIRCABC](#)) encompassing the introduction to the MASP 2016, the relationship between the MASP and the UCC WP, the outcome of the review cycle, as well as the next steps for the MASP 2016. The 15th ECCG meeting was considered to be the review meeting of the author's positions (APO) on the received comments. **COM** presented the groups of common APO and distinguished specific comments for discussion on the MASP fiche 2.1 "UCC Notification of Arrival, Presentation Notification and Temporary Storage."

AEA queried on transposition of fiche 2.1 to the MASP group 2, asking which points of the project were still considered open. With regard to comment 4 from EE on fiche 1.7, concerning the national developments for the UCC transit system including NCTS, **AEA** requested APO clarification. With regard to fiche 2.1, **COM** did not identify any major issues. Concerning fiche 1.7, **COM** clarified that Electronic Transport Document (ETD) as transit declaration relates to component 2 of the project therefore no EU-wide system would be implemented for this matter. In relation to the ETD, **COM** informed the delegates that DG MOVE launched a harmonised eManifest initiative and DG TAXUD is cooperating with DG MOVE. **AEA** requested to redraft the APO. **COM** agreed.

SE commented on fiche 2.1 saying that there are open questions, such as issue with Article 136 of the UCC, links to ICS2.0 and discussions on eManifest. To this point, **SE** emphasized that further discussions are required. **COM** acknowledged these questions, but at the same time said that postponing the project should be avoided.

UK questioned the value of MASP Annex 1 which does not contain the links to interdependent projects. **UK** was concerned that the projects are treated in a very isolated manner. In addition, **UK** was concerned that the Dashboard (quarterly MASP status report) and the MASP rev.2016 are not aligned, specifically on PoUS project. **COM** admitted that the links between the projects are not reflected perfectly, however, after a number of trials COM decided to follow a simpler approach which allows keeping Annex 1 clearer. Nonetheless, **COM** will consider making improvements in the future. Concerning the information in Dashboard on PoUS system, **COM** informed that the legal proposals will shortly be presented to the competent committee, which would also allow having a more stable planning.

NL concurred with SE position on fiche 2.1, adding that the project is strongly linked with ICS2.0. **COM** pointed out that solving open questions will take time. However, **COM** accepted that the fiche could remain in the MASP group 2 emphasizing that it should not be the reason not to start the project activities. The other question from **NL** concerned the future revisions of the MASP and the UCC WP. **COM** explained that the revisions will be done in the proper order. The intention is to start with the overall planning and then work on the MASP revision, followed by the UCC WP review.

With regard to the next steps, the agreed APOs will be published on 31/05/2016. By 10/06/2016 the ECCG and the TCG should verify the implementation of the APOs. The updated MASP rev.2016 should be published on 23/06/2016 and submitted for acceptance to the ECCG on 30/06/2016-01/07/2016 and to the CPG on 07-08/07/2016.

9. UCC L2 - L3 BPMS FINAL UPDATE

COM gave an overview of the L2-L3 BPM planning (presentation available on [CIRCABC](#)), reminding that a note was published to MS on 21/03/2016 concerning the external review. The updated package encompassed BPMs of all business domains except the entry of goods, which will be handled separately, indicatively in April 2016. The BPMs were aligned with the adopted UCC IA/DA as published in the OJ on 29/12/2015. **COM** expects comments from MS and TCG by 20/04/2016.

10. UCC PROJECTS: L4 BPM AND BUSINESS CASES – STATE OF PLAY

COM held a presentation (available on [CIRCABC](#)) on the activities and state of play concerning the L4 BPMs for the UCC Customs Decisions, BTI, AEO, AES, NCTS and INF Special Procedures. The activities planned for the second half of 2016 relate to the business cases for Guarantee Management and Centralised Clearance, as well as L4 BPM for ICS2.0. The decision for the latter is still pending and more information will be available at a later stage. **COM** will issue a note to the Customs Policy Group explaining the new approach based on specific elements to be implemented with available resources. Based on this, the ICS2.0 Business Case and the Vision Document will be updated.

Thursday, 14 April 2016

11. 2015 ECUSTOMS PROGRESS REPORT (10')

COM provided information on the 2015 e-Customs Progress Report, specifying that 18 MS have already submitted their national reports. **COM** urged 10 remaining MS (DK, DE, EL, ES, HR, IT, LU, NL, RO and SK) to send their reports as soon as possible.

NL recalled the remark that **NL** made last year in terms of the level of detail required by **COM** for the national progress reports. **NL** pointed out that their administration was not in the position to provide such detailed information.

DE informed that due to re-organisation in their administration the resources are limited to provide the report. **DE** will do its best to submit the information by 22/04/2016.

12. SURVEILLANCE3 – BUSINESS CASE (20')

COM informed that the publication of the UCC DA/IA and the changes to the UCC BTI project greatly influenced the update of the Business Case (BC) v.2 which has already been submitted for external review. The APOs will be published shortly on [CIRCABC](#) followed by a written procedure for the BC acceptance. **COM** thanked MS for their cooperation in the BC review process.

13. INFORMATION ON PG FOR AES AND NCTS UPDATE (15')

- *Information on PG for AES update*

COM held a presentation (slides available on [CIRCABC](#)) on the Customs 2020 Project Group handling the UCC Automated Export System (AES) activities. The aim of the PG is to fine tune the L4 BPM/ FSS and to align it to the UCC DA/IA. The recommendations of the PG and the comments received during the Q4 2015 review will be taken into account for the update of the L4 BPM/ FSS. The PG will discuss the timeframe of the migration from ECS Phase 2 to AES and the business statistics aspects. **COM** informed that the upcoming meeting on 19-20/05/2016 marks a starting point for the internal review of L4 BPM, which will last until mid June 2016. **COM** highlighted that the joint meeting with the TCG will be held on 20/05/2016. In addition, **COM** explained that the document containing the PG recommendations should be agreed internally at the 17/06/2016 meeting.

SE noted that the MRN structure constitutes a horizontal issue and it is not specifically linked to export. **COM** acknowledged the concern and informed that this issue has been discussed with the DIH experts. **MS** will be informed in case a decision is made regarding this matter.

AEA asked to confirm whether the overall scope of the project group activities is related to the trans-European export procedures, excluding the national component analysis. **AEA** further asked to clarify whether the discussions regarding the simplified declarations are included in the PG analysis. **COM** explained that simplified declaration will be discussed in another setting. **COM** confirmed that the discussions of the PG pertain to the trans-European component.

EEA stated that it looks forward to discussing the Entry Into the Declarant's Records (EIDR) in upcoming meetings. **COM** noted this request.

AEA stated that certain **MS** have announced their plans to implement the changes related to export by the end of 2016. According to **AEA**, these changes might be related to national issues. **AEA** further inquired whether the trade community should expect feedback from **NA** outlining these changes. **COM** confirmed that the scope of the PG does not cover national components.

- **Information on PG for NCTS update**

COM informed about the Customs 2020 Project Group on the UCC New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) activities (slides available on [CIRCABC](#)). The purpose of the PG is to update the L4 Business Processes and to create a new FTSS aligned with the UCC DA/IA. **COM** gave an overview of the PG tasks and highlighted that a new process has been created for en route events. The new requirements for the timers fall under the scope of the PG analysis. In addition, **COM** stressed the points, which are excluded from the PG analysis.. **COM** informed that joint meetings are being arranged with the AES PG to develop the necessary interfaces/interactions with AES and the supporting systems. **COM** notified that two Master L4 BPMs have been created for core business and guarantee management. In addition, a new BPM created for Incidents En Route, where the main change is related to the location of the customs office in charge which will be placed in the point of the accident. The internal review of the PG deliverables was foreseen in between the May and June 2016 meetings, followed by the external review process.

COM highlighted that other **MS**, which are not participating in the AES and NCTS PGs, may ask access to the PICS platform in order to follow the activities.

14. CUSTOMS IT SYSTEMS (205')

14.1 DASHBOARD OF THE MASP PROJECTS & EXTERNAL REVIEW CYCLE PLANNING – STATUS (15')

COM presented the information (document available on [CIRCABC](#)) concerning the development and upgrade of the customs IT systems versus the MASP. **COM** informed that the monthly Dashboard of the MASP projects will be fully aligned with MASP Rev. 2016 by the next ECCG meeting. As regards the UCC PoUS, **COM** informed that the BC, VD and IT specifications will be updated as necessary to reflect the newly adopted legislation. With regard to the UCC AES and the UCC Transit System including NCTS projects, the IT specifications will be set up after the PG activities are finalised. **COM** notified that the COPIS - AFIS project activities have been restored and the review of the VD is ongoing. **COM** informed that the IT System Development Group meeting was held on 21/03/2016 and the IT survey has been launched for CS/RD2, REX and UCC Customs Decisions regarding IT capacity and operational aspects.

In addition, **COM** noted that, upon **FI**'s request, the document “*External review cycles with Members States – 2016 planning*” containing information about the business and IT deliverables for the 2016 **MS** review is available on [CIRCABC](#).

NL stated that it expected to find out more complete information about the projects. **NL** remarked that the status being reported was not representing the reality as for instance there were activities for AES and PoUS projects ongoing from a business perspective. To this end, **NL** suggested preparing a document, which would give a full picture of the project status from a business and IT point of view. **COM** took

note of NL's request and agreed that for a next revision of the MASP status report, the business and IT perspectives are merged into one document by the next ECCG meeting.

14.2 UCC BINDING TARIFF INFORMATION AND SURVEILLANCE3 – STATE OF PLAY (20')

COM presented the information (slides available on [CIRCABC](#)) concerning the UCC BTI and Surveillance 3 projects. The changes to the newly adopted law triggered the integration of the UCC BTI and Surveillance3 projects. A decision was taken to skip the development of Surveillance 2+ and to immediately implement the UCC BTI usage control reporting in the Surveillance 3 project. As regards the format, MS will be available to send 14 data elements in the current format. Depending on MS needs, it will be possible to send 14 data elements in the new UCC format and a full set of 40 data elements as determined in the UCC. Apart from the development of new systems, such as Surveillance Reception Application and Surveillance3, an expansion of EBTI3 has been planned in order to support new UCC functionality. The BTI validity period has been altered from six years to three years. **COM** also presented the EBTI3 changes affecting system to system interface as from 01/10/2017.

COM listed the documents which will be submitted for MS review. In addition, **COM** highlighted that the update of VD affects only Phase 1.

ESC highlighted that it is very important for companies to have regular access to the EBTI-3 database. **ESC** inquired about the scope of the electronic access to EBTI-3 for traders and whether it will be a functionality to extract the information from the system. **COM** clarified that the UCC BTI Phase 2 will grant traders electronic access to EBTI-3. It enables traders to electronically submit applications to the relevant MS customs office. This communication is described in the BC and will be analysed further in the VD. **COM** explained that the BTI decisions are publicly accessible in a Data Dissemination System (DDS BTI). **COM** said that the VD should encompass the necessary details which are not yet known. **COM** ensured that the trader's requirements to obtain the necessary information were taken into account.

FR asked to clarify what data needs to be sent by MS as from 01/05/2016. **COM** explained that, after the 01/05/2016 start date, the standard validity period of the BTI will change from six to three years. Any other changes in the central system are not going to be implemented and MS are not expected to make any changes in EBTI-3 or Surveillance 3 interfaces by 01/05/2016.

14.3 CLASS IT ELABORATION ACTIVITIES – STATE OF PLAY (10')

COM held a presentation (available on [CIRCABC](#)) on the status of the CLASS project. The current Elaboration phase covers the activities associated to the design and implementation of the core CLASS system. The system specifications are being created and the project activities are ongoing and in line with the MASP planning. The planned operational date is 01/10/2018. **COM** said that FR indicated its plans to use the search functionality through the web service. Therefore, **COM** will forward the Service Specifications by the end of September 2016 to FR and all MS.

14.4 CENTRAL SERVICES/REFERENCE DATA 2 (CS/RD 2) – STATE OF PLAY (15')

COM presented an overview (slides available on [CIRCABC](#)) of the CS/RD2 project which is considered one of the most advanced so far. The elaboration phase has been finalised recently and the activities of the construction phase are ongoing. Factory Acceptance Test (FAT) has started and the preparation of three manuals is being finalized. **COM** presented the plan overview concerning the trainings and the two conformance tests (CT). The CT for new functionalities will be performed on an *ad hoc* basis. The CS/RD2 will go into production as from 01/12/2016 and it will have a full backward compatibility. **COM** informed that the results of the survey regarding the MS future technical plans will be presented during the next IT Systems Development Group meeting (23/06/2016), and reminded the MS which have not sent the answers to the survey to provide their feedback.

LV requested a correlation table which connects the CS/RD2 code list with the specific reference data entity. **COM** noted LV's request. **LV** further asked when the test environment will be available. **COM** explained that the new functionalities should be available when the backward compatibility CT environment will be ready. In addition, **LV** asked whether it would be possible to receive an XML sample for CS/RD2 with the pre-filled data. **COM** explained that it needs to double check this request prior to

informing MS. Moreover, **COM** clarified that the application will be stable after the finalisation of the pre-FAT. Therefore, data files can be generated when the data in the testing environment will be migrated from CS/RD1 to CS/RD2.

FR inquired about the number of delegates that could attend the 28/06/2016 training and whether the CT could be started directly afterwards. **COM** explained that the Customs 2020 Programme covers the costs for two delegates per MS. If more delegates choose to join the training, **COM** should be notified in advance and the additional costs should be covered by the national administration. **COM** noted that the training invitation will be sent shortly.

14.5 UCC INF SPECIAL PROCEDURES (15')

COM presented a draft plan (available on [CIRCABC](#)) on the status of the UCC INF Special Procedures project. The inception phase has started and the BC has been approved. The VD will be officially submitted to DG TAXUD in the beginning of May 2016 and it will be published for external review by the end of May 2016.

14.6 CTA – STATE OF PLAY (15')

COM presented the slides (available on [CIRCABC](#)) regarding the state of play of the Conformance Testing Application (CTA) project. **COM** introduced the Conformance Testing process and informed that CTA will be used for the customs, excise and taxation domains. The project is currently undergoing the end of the inception phase. The external review of the CTA VD has been launched.

14.7 ECONOMIC OPERATOR DATASPACE – INTERFACES (15')

COM held a presentation (available on [CIRCABC](#)) on the Economic Operator dataspace. **COM** gave an overview of the status of different existing and new interfaces. **COM**'s presentation included information related to the Customer Reference System (CRS) data contents, CRS next steps and replication data options. **COM** also provided information on the CRS functionalities, which will be implemented for the REX system as from 01/01/2017.

14.8 UCC AEO AND EORI2 (15')

COM presented slides (available on [CIRCABC](#)) regarding the UCC AEO and the EORI2 systems. As regards the EORI2 system, **COM** explained that the changes will appear on the System-to-System interface regarding the data download. The data elements will be also affected by change. In relation to EORI2, **COM** presented the planning for review cycles and CT. The UCC AEO will be affected by modifications pertaining to the exchange of information. **COM** further presented the planning of the activities for the UCC AEO releases 3.7.0, 3.8.0, 3.9.0.

In regards to Release 3.9.0 of the UCC AEO, **EE** asked to confirm whether the date indicated on slide 6 for the March 2016 external review cycle is correct. **COM** explained that the review cycle for DDNA-SPM-REQ has been recently launched. The next review cycle related to EORI2 will be commenced in June 2016.

14.9 REGISTERED EXPORTER SYSTEM (REX)

15.9.1 FEEDBACK FROM CUSTOMS BUSINESS GROUP (CBG) AND PROJECT GROUP WITH BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES (15')

COM informed that the progress in the development of the REX project is steady and reliable. The PG meeting with the beneficiary countries was held on 16-18/02/2016. The delegates of KH, IN, KE, LA, MM and ZM participated in the meeting. The second session of this PG will be arranged in the beginning of June 2016. None of these countries informed about the intention to start the REX system from 01/01/2017.

The CBG meeting, held on 09/03/2016, was dedicated to discussions concerning the REX project. The collaboration with CH and NO regarding the REX project is progressing well. Those MS which need to have more legal information regarding this collaboration were invited to contact the Rules of Origin

section of the Customs Code Committee. The next meeting pertaining to the introduction of the REX system could be held between September and November 2016 upon MS request.

In relation to the little interest shown by the beneficiary countries to join to the REX system on 01/01/2017, **NL** asked about the pressure exerted on MS to be ready for this date. An average of 85-90 beneficiary countries are preferred in order to proceed with REX related activities. **NL** highlighted that there is a need to have a clear planning concerning the implementation of necessary adaptations done by MS to the REX. **COM** clarified that there is a need to separate the legal obligations from operational circumstances. From a legal point of view, it is clear that MS need to be ready by 01/01/2017. The system use is dependent on the beneficiary countries. The national administrations will be kept informed in the *Europa* website about the latest developments, therefore certain operational decisions could be taken by MS accordingly. **COM** noted this concern and ensured that MS will be informed about the latest situation at the next 29-30/06/2016 ECCG meeting. As regards what needs to be done at MS level, **COM** explained that, from an IT point of view, the integration with CRS has to be implemented. The start date for CT has been scheduled on 15/09/2016.

IE suggested using the PICS platform which would serve as a useful tool in terms of information exchange regarding this project.

15.9.2 STATE OF PLAY – IT SYSTEMS (15')

COM held a presentation (available on [CIRCABC](#)) on the IT activities of the REX project. **COM** informed that the complete system demo of REX for BC was shown at the PG meeting with beneficiary countries (16-17/02/2016). **COM** presented the project progress report from an IT point of view. The construction phase is ongoing and the project is undergoing pre-FAT and FAT Testing. In addition, a SPRINT (Sequential PRoject INTegration testing) project has started. The transition into operations will start in the following months. **COM**'s presentation focused on information regarding project planning versus the MASP, conformance testing and training phases, as well as possible risks and constraints.

FR highlighted that their national administration will not have a national REX system. The registration of the exporters will be completed under the Customs Decisions system.

14.10 CUSTOMS DECISIONS PROJECT (30')

15.10.1 UCC CUSTOMS DECISIONS PROJECT (30')

- ***Reporting from the CBG of 19/02, outcome of the survey***

COM presented the information (slides available on [CIRCABC](#)) on the Customs Decisions (CD) project status viewed from a business perspective. Based on version 3 of the UCC DA/IA, Level 4 (L4) BPMs were finalized with a Request for Changes (RfC) for TSS at the end of 2015. The final update of Level 2 (L2) and Level 3 (L3) BPMs was triggered by the adoption of the UCC DA/IA on 29/12/2015. The external review cycle of L2 and L3 is ongoing. The change log has been created with all the amendments to L4 BPMs, which will be aligned with the L2/L3 BPMs. **COM** presented the scope of the L4 BPM update.

During the previous CBG meeting (19/02/2016), **COM** informed about the upcoming survey. The MS feedback had to be sent by the end of March 2016. As a result, **COM** received supplementary questions, which will be disseminated to all MS in addition to the survey. **COM** gave an overview of the survey scope and results. Moreover, **COM** kindly invited MS which have not yet provided a feedback to send their replies as soon as possible.

NL pointed out that the additional notes to the questionnaire have been sent to **COM**. Therefore, **NL** inquired whether a follow-up is planned by **COM**. **COM** clarified that the questions provided by **NL** will be handled after the complete survey feedback will be received.

BE informed that they did not reply to the survey and asked to provide a reference to a questionnaire in order to ensure its feedback. **COM** noted **BE**'s request and clarified that the e-mail will be addressed with the attached document.

- ***Agreed Trader Portal approach***

COM held a presentation (available on [CIRCABC](#)) regarding the EU Harmonized Trader Portal approach. Initially, a hybrid solution has been proposed, which would allow MS to create or to use either the Central Customs Decision System, or the National Customs Decision System. The new extended hybrid approach was proposed given by ES, with the support of FR, and agreed with **COM**. According to the new solution, the trader can choose either to use the National Portal or to apply EU Harmonized Portal for Multi-MS Decision. **COM** announced that the majority of MS will only use the EU Trader Portal for Multi MS UCC decisions.

EEA asked to confirm whether the trader is able to submit all the applications for a decision in one MS using the central system. More specifically, **EEA** expected a system which would allow submitting the applications through one MS with the system recognizing to whom that application has been made. The system must be able to route the application to the correct MS. **COM** explained that legally there is a difference whether it is a single country national authorization or multi-MS. In case of multi-MS authorizations, the trader will be automatically guided to the correct authorization. However, the situation differs in the case of single country demands.

FR stated that if the proposal is going to be accepted, FR would choose a hybrid approach solution. Therefore, **FR** inquired when **COM** will provide the information about the technical changes as a result of hybrid changes. **COM** clarified that this does not trigger technical changes, therefore, the specifications will not be modified by this additional service.

NL stressed that instead of providing messages to the traders about the wrong steps taken in the process of the system's use, there is a necessity to provide them a support. MS need to be able to steer the traders and to help them. The EU Harmonized Portal should have guidelines or a cross reference to the national portal. **COM** informed that the rules will be indicated and the guidance including URL could be provided in order for the traders to access the correct data location. However, some manual steps are also expected.

WSC supported the interventions made by EEA and NL, highlighting that traders exactly do not want the "wrong door" answer. Since there is no possibility to have a genuine harmonized trader portal, the references to the appropriate trader portals should be indicated. **COM** believed that extended possibilities would be helpful to the traders in general.

BE supported the intervention of NL. In addition, **BE** asked whether the UUM&DS solution has to be used for authentication at a national level. **COM** explained that national portals should be supported by the national authentication solutions.

15.10.2 IT SYSTEMS STATE OF PLAY AND ACCEPTANCE OF SPECIFICATION DOCUMENTATION (15')

COM presented the information (slides available on [CIRCABC](#)) on the IT activities for the UCC Customs Decision project. **COM** gave an overview of the current status of the projects and IT architecture of the Trader Portal. **COM** explained that there is no communication between the EU Trader portal and the national Trader Portal, therefore the whole process has to be carried out through the same portal.

COM notified that the IT specifications were aligned with the L4 BPMs (version of April 2015) and the external review was planned for 12/01/2016. Given the review cycle procedures, **COM** requested ECCG approval for these IT specifications. No objections were received from the MS and the TCG.

EE requested to provide the information regarding the UCC Customs Decisions project individual Master Plan and asked when it will be available for MS. **COM** noted the request and said that the document should be published by the next ECCG meeting (30st June & 1st July 2016).

15. AOB

15.1 COMMON TRANSIT WITH SERBIA: INFORMATION ON FIRST WEEKS OF OPERATION (5')

RS made a presentation (available on [CIRCABC](#)) regarding the common transit. **RS** joined the Common Transit Convention on 01/02/2016 and became operational in relation to the NCTS. **RS** presented the challenges which they faced about joining the common transit. The new decision of the Serbian Central

bank had to be taken in order that the commercial banks would be allowed to issue guarantees for common transit. **RS** also presented the NCTS statistics.

COM congratulated **RS** for its successful first operations using the NCTS.

15.2 CONSEQUENCES ARISING FROM AMENDMENT OF REGULATION 515/97 FOR ATIS AND NCTS (5')

COM announced that Regulation 515/97 has been changed. This is a mutual assistance regulation established by OLAF and it includes a provision that links the transit system to AFIS and a specific module ATIS. The update of Regulation 515/97 will be carried in different phases. The scope of discussions with OLAF will cover the transit and export domains. The Implementing Act for Regulation 515/97 has been planned to be published.

15.3 eMANIFEST PILOT PROJECT (20')

COM informed the delegates on the eManifest Pilot Project initiative (presentation available on [CIRCABC](#)), which is a joined action of DG MOVE, DG TAXUD and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). The pilot project is mentioned in the main body of the MASP but has not been defined yet in a separate project fiche. The objective of the eManifest Pilot Project phase 1 is to test the procedures for optimised submission of data elements required for different formalities, including some customs formalities, through the maritime national SW as defined in Directive 2010/65/EU³. The data submission would be tested by enhancing the existing prototype developed by EMSA. A joint meeting of the ECCG and eMS sub-group took place on 11/03/2016. The current state of play relates to gathering the feedback from MS and taking decisions on the potential way forward.

UK inquired about the clear objectives and the vision of the eManifest Pilot Project in a broader perspective. **COM** promised to provide to the delegates more information on the eManifest Pilot Project developments through the updates at ECCG meetings.

NL welcomed the initiative and raised several questions: 1) whether the eManifest Pilot Project would be based on the EU CDM /WCO DM 3.6 or other standards; 2) the schedule of the Pilot Project and the expectations from MS in terms of alignment with the Pilot Project results; 3) the link between the Pilot Project and the UCC projects ICS2.0, NA, PN and TS. **COM** responded that the Pilot Project is based on the EU CDM in terms of customs formalities. The Pilot Project might trigger the adoption of new binding legislation towards 2020. In the Pilot Project a prototype will be used enabling simulation of the data submission and therefore no developments are expected from MS at this stage.

WSC had reservations about the eManifest Pilot Project with respect to its scope and the participation costs. **WSC** said that they would review the updated project Business Rules and, depending on this review, will take decision regarding recommending participation in the pilot project to their members.

COM informed the delegates that the business rules were presented to MS at the common ECCG and eMS sub-group meeting of 11/03/2016. After MS review, the updated version of the business rules will be made available. The next meeting on eManifest Pilot Project is scheduled for June 2016.

16. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS (5')

The **Chair** informed the delegates on the upcoming meetings (slides available on [CIRCABC](#)).

CLOSING OF THE MEETING (5')

The **Chair** closed the 15th meeting of the ECCG joint with the TCG by thanking the delegates for their valuable contributions and the interpreters for interpretation services.

³ Directive 2010/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from ports of the Member States and repealing Directive 2002/6/EC

APPENDIX A – ACTION LIST

No	Action for	Description	Logged on	Status
1.	DG TAXUD	As per DE's follow-up request, to present what needs to be done in case of systems unavailability, possibly to the Customs Business Group.	ECCG7 Item 13.1; page 18-19	Open
2.	DG TAXUD	To report about the status of the ICS2.0 project at the next ECCG.	ECCG15 Item 2, page 3	To be closed
3.	DG TAXUD	As per request of SE, to inform MS, whether the DIH experts took a decision regarding the MRN structure.	ECCG15 Item 14, page 9	To be closed
4.	DG TAXUD	As per request of EEA, to plan a discussion concerning Entry Into Declarant's Records for future meetings.	ECCG15 Item 14, page 9	Open
5.	DG TAXUD	As per NL's request, to adapt the MASP dashboard, reflecting a complete status of each MASP project from business and IT point of view.	ECCG15 Item 15.1, page 10	To be closed
6.	DG TAXUD	To inform MS about the activities related to the REX PG with beneficiary countries at the next ECCG meeting of 29-30/06/2016 (issue escalated by NL).	ECCG15 Item 15.9.1, page 12-13	To be closed
7.	DG TAXUD	As per request of EE, to prepare a Master Plan for the UCC Customs Decisions project by the next ECCG meeting.	ECCG15 Item 15.10.2, page 14	To be closed
8.	DG TAXUD	As per request of UK, to provide to MS more information on the eManifest Pilot Project.	ECCG15 Item 16.3, page 15	To be closed