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Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

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DRAFT REPORT

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
on a paperless environment for customs and trade
(COM(2005)0609 – C6-0420/2005 – 2005/0247(COD))

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Rapporteur: Christopher Heaton-Harris

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- *** Assent procedure
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases
covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and
Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission.)

Amendments to a legislative text

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a paperless environment for customs and trade
(COM(2005)0609 – C6-0420/2005 – 2005/0247(COD))**

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2005)0609)¹,
- having regard to Article 251(2) and Articles 95 and 135 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0420/2005),
- having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (A6-0000/2006),

1. Approves the Commission proposal;
2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend its proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Objective

The main objective of the Decision promoting electronic customs is the implementation of interoperable and accessible automated customs systems and of coordinated processes and services, both under the current and the future modernized Customs Code. It is intended to create the necessary commitment, with regard to border agencies other than customs, in order to implement the concepts of a 'Single Window' and a 'One-Stop Shop'. The main purpose of the Decision is to determine what action needs to be taken and what deadlines met by all stakeholders for the achievement of a simple and paperless environment for customs and trade by the time the modernized Customs Code enters into force.

By setting up and operating secure, interoperable and accessible electronic customs systems the supply chain logistics and customs processes should be improved and facilitated. The proposal provides for greater efficiency of customs clearance, simplification of administrative procedures for public (EU or national) and private parties and facilitation of trade.

Especially, an electronic environment for customs and trade, consisting of accessible and interoperable customs systems, could lead to a faster release of goods. Besides, economic operators could be able to conduct their customs-related business with the customs administration at the place where they are established (centralised customs clearance and single access point).

Furthermore, the safety of goods and security of international trade should be increased, environmental and consumer protection should be enhanced through better targeted customs controls based on electronic risk management systems.

2. Background

Member States have already invested significantly in the development of automated customs systems. However, the difference between existing systems, sets of rules and data used offsets the advantages of any harmonization achieved in this field so far, primarily because of the lack of interoperability between these systems. It is essential that customs systems are able to exchange electronic information and are provided with a range of interfaces with the trade, based on commonly used technology.

Community-wide IT applications for customs clearance do not yet exist, apart from the new computerized transit system, NCTS, which has successfully demonstrated the feasibility of such systems and opens new opportunities for similar applications in other customs regimes. This would require the introduction of a convergence framework and, where appropriate, common standards and structures.

The rapporteur supports the objectives and the content of the proposal.

Therefore, he proposes to adopt the Commission proposal without amendment.