

**DG TAXUD INITIATIVES
TENTATIVE ROLLING WORKING PROGRAMME 2013 FOR IMCO**

I. FORTHCOMING LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

TITLE	INDICATIVE TARGET DATE FOR ADOPTION/COMPLETION	COMMENTS
Customs infringements and sanctions	June 2013	<p>The Commission intends to present a legislative proposal concerning the approximation of national regimes of customs infringements and sanctions. The main objectives of the proposal are to provide a common framework for customs law enforcement and compliance with the customs legislation and to enhance the level playing field between economic operators.</p> <p>Preparatory work was undertaken by a Project Group set up with Member States and a study was carried out. In this study the diversity of legal systems and the difference on the nature of the penalty for the same customs offence, as well as the diversity of the treatment of customs offences and the procedure according to which a customs penalty is imposed and executed were highlighted.</p> <p>An impact assessment on this proposal is currently being conducted by the Commission.</p>

II. NON-LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES RECENTLY ADOPTED

TITLE	INDICATIVE TARGET DATE FOR ADOPTION/COMPLETION	COMMENTS
Communication on the State of the Customs Union	Adopted on 21 December 2012	<p>The Communication takes stock of the current state of the EU Customs Union, and identifies existing and future challenges. It sets out priority actions for ensuring its proper future evolution. The aim is to ensure that the European Union Customs Union is and continues to serve society and be as modern, effective and efficient as possible, supporting a safe and competitive Europe.</p> <p>The priority actions identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completion of the modernisation process, most notably by finalising the adoption and implementation of the UCC (NB: the Commission has considered contingency planning to avoid the risks of a harmful legislative gap in June 2013, and to enable the ongoing trilogue and its administrative processes to be finalised properly); • continued gap analysis to identify specific priority projects; • review of the governance and management structure of the customs union, to make recommendations for future evolution by 2014. <p>The Commission would invite the European Parliament to be an active partner and stakeholder in taking forward all three priorities.</p>
Communication on risk management and supply chain security	Adopted on 8 January 2013	<p>The Communication is a follow-up to a comprehensive study on the existing gaps in the EU customs risk management set-up, as well as the results of the monitoring of the implementation of the Risk Management Framework by the Commission with the Member States. It examines ways to address identified gaps to ensure that risks are tackled with an equivalent effect/impact across the external border.</p> <p>Support from the European Parliament would help reinforce the message and give an extra weight to the recommendations, which aim to reinforce the EU risk management capacity and to improve its harmonised implementation, resulting in better protection of society and the interests of legitimate trade.</p>

<p>Action Plan to combat IPR infringements for 2013-2017</p>	<p>Adopted on 10 December 2012</p>	<p>The new Action Plan contains innovative ideas to step up the fight against IPR infringements at EU borders, taking into account of the current economic climate.</p> <p>Particular focus is put on the effective implementation and monitoring of EU legislation on customs enforcement of IPR which should soon be adopted by the European Parliament and Council (political agreement reached between the 2 institutions in December 2012).</p> <p>The other strategic objectives of the action plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling major trends in the trade of IPR infringing goods (e.g. the increased trend in small parcels related to internet purchases). • Tackling trade of IPR infringing goods throughout the international supply chain. • Strengthening cooperation with the European Observatory and law enforcement authorities on IPR infringements
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III. NON-LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES TO BE ADOPTED IN 2013

TITLE	INDICATIVE TARGET DATE FOR ADOPTION/COMPLETION	COMMENTS
Bilateral agreement on drug precursors with the Russian Federation	Consent procedure/ second quarter 2013	<p>The EU and the Russian Federation are major players in fighting illicit drug production worldwide and have a common interest for engaging in drug precursor cooperation. Russia used to be a significant source of amphetamine precursors. Therefore the Commission requested a mandate to negotiate a drug precursors' agreement with this country.</p> <p>The negotiations with Russia were conducted in the context of the negotiations of the overall EU-Russia Agreement.</p> <p>The objective is to strengthen our cooperation in preventing the diversion and trafficking of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.</p> <p>The EU has currently concluded 10 multilateral drug precursor agreements (Turkey, United States, Mexico, Chile, Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and China).</p> <p>The Parliament will be requested by the Council to give its consent on the conclusion of the EU-Russia agreement on drug precursors. The file most probably falls into the competences of INTA.</p>
Air cargo security-amendment to the current Customs Code Implementing Provisions	2013/2014	<p>As part of the EU Air Cargo Security Action Plan, Customs is required to develop methods to assess the elevated risk level of specific cargo, taking into account inter alia that operators have to provide information to customs on goods before leaving or entering the EU.</p> <p>In December 2011, the Policy Commission of the World Customs Organization (WCO) adopted a Resolution specifically emphasizing the principle of air cargo data becoming available prior to loading which is a pre-requisite for Customs to stop bombs being loaded onto the aircraft.</p>

		<p>Customs procedures in place are being reviewed in cooperation with industry. A pilot project with the European Express Association was put in place to test the "prior to loading" principle and provided its results by the end of 2012.</p> <p>Following the successful results of the pilot project with express carriers, an expansion to traditional air carriers has been endorsed by the Member States and the first steps are currently being made.</p> <p>The Commission is proceeding with the preparation of legislation to amend the current Customs Code Implementing Provisions to improve the availability, as well as data quality of advance information.</p> <p>The EP and Council will have a right of scrutiny according to article 11 of Regulation No 182/2011 of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers</p>
<p>Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement with New Zealand</p>	<p>End 2014</p>	<p>New Zealand has approached the Commission on several occasions with a request to develop customs cooperation with the EU focussing on supply chain security, trade facilitation and the fight against fraud. This request has been supported by EU Member States.</p> <p>New Zealand is a "like-minded" country: it provides a high level of trade facilitation based on risk analysis; it is an active and constructive partner in international customs forums; it has developed a modern and efficient AEO programme recognised by the US, Japan, Canada, etc.; its data protection regime is adequate with the EU's system.</p> <p>The Agreement would provide a broad mandate to develop cooperation with New Zealand on customs matters, including in the areas of supply chain security and risk management, trade facilitation, IPR customs enforcement and the fight against fraud.</p> <p>The negotiations are to start in mid-2013, following the adoption of the negotiating directives. The conclusion is expected in the second half of 2014.</p> <p>This file most probably falls in to the area of competence of INTA</p>

