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*****II**

RECOMMENDATION FOR SECOND READING

on the Council common position for adopting a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a paperless environment for customs and trade
(8520/4/2007 – C6-0267/2007 – 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 Council common position for adopting a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a paperless environment for customs and trade (8520/4/2007 – C6-0267/2007 – 2005/0247(COD))

(Codecision procedure: second reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Council common position (8520/4/2007 – C6-0267/2007),
 - having regard to its position at first reading¹ on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2005)0609),
 - having regard to Article 251(2) of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation for second reading of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (A6-0466/2007),
1. Approves the common position;
 2. Notes that the act is adopted in accordance with the common position;
 3. Instructs its President to sign the act with the President of the Council pursuant to Article 254(1) of the EC Treaty;
 4. Instructs its Secretary-General to sign the act, once it has been verified that all the procedures have been duly completed, and, in agreement with the Secretary-General of the Council, to have it published in the Official Journal of the European Union;
 5. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

¹*Texts Adopted*, 12.12.2006, P6_TA(2006)0539.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Background

The European Parliament adopted its Report at first reading on 12 December 2006, with no amendments to the proposal. On 23 July 2007 the Council adopted its common position. The Commission agrees to the common position.

2. Objective of the Commission proposal

The purpose of the proposed Decision is to create an instrument for the implementation of interoperable and accessible automated customs systems, both under the current and the future modernized Customs Code, and for coordinated processes and services. This instrument is intended to create the necessary commitments to implementing different customs electronic systems and the conditions for future commitments to the 'Single Window' and 'One-Stop Shop' concepts. Its main objective is to determine what action needs to be taken and what deadlines met by all stakeholders in order to achieve the objective of a simple and paperless environment for customs and trade by the time the Modernized Customs Code enters into force.

3. Common position

The Council shares in its common position the proposal's objective which is to establish a paperless environment for customs and trade.

The common position introduces, in addition to technical modifications and a specific reference to the protection of personal data, changes concerning the deadlines for the establishment of the individual systems. Regarding some systems it creates a distinction between deadlines for the establishment of functional specifications and for the operation of the system. Furthermore, it establishes the possibility to extend the deadlines under the comitology procedure (regulatory procedure with scrutiny) and to abolish some projects following a negative evaluation of the functional specifications.

Given the technical difficulties inherent to such an ambitious project, linked with a substantial allocation of resources to be committed by national administrations, the Council favours a step-by-step approach, allowing the implementation of the electronic systems in cascading phases. So, the main changes in the common position to the Commission's proposal concern Art.4 (Systems, services and time table), Art.5 (Components and responsibilities), Art.6 (Tasks of the Commission) and Art.7 (Tasks of the Member States).

4. Conclusion

The European Parliament should agree with the common position since it still ensures maintaining deadlines in the proposal in order to create a commitment of the Member States and the Commission.

PROCEDURE

Title	A paperless environment for customs and trade
References	08520/4/2007 - C6-0267/2007 - 2005/0247(COD)
Date of Parliament's first reading – P number	12.12.2006 T6-0539/2006
Commission proposal	COM(2005)0609 - C6-0420/2005
Date receipt of common position announced in plenary	6.9.2007
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	IMCO 6.9.2007
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Christopher Heaton-Harris 30.1.2006
Discussed in committee	12.9.2007 3.10.2007
Date adopted	22.11.2007
Result of final vote	+: 22 –: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Janelly Fourtou, Evelyne Gebhardt, Malcolm Harbour, Alexander Lambsdorff, Kurt Lechner, Nickolay Mladenov, Bill Newton Dunn, Zita Pleštinská, Karin Riis-Jørgensen, Luisa Fernanda Rudi Ubeda, Heide Rühle, Leopold Józef Rutowicz, Christel Schaldemose, Andreas Schwab, Eva-Britt Svensson, Bernadette Vergnaud
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Emmanouil Angelakas, André Brie, Wolfgang Bulfon, Colm Burke, Manuel Medina Ortega
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Mojca Drčar Murko