

Customs reform

- **Presentation to SEV – Hellenic Federation of Enterprises**



EU
CUSTOMS
AUTHORITY

24 March 2024 – Gerassimos Thomas, DG TAXUD



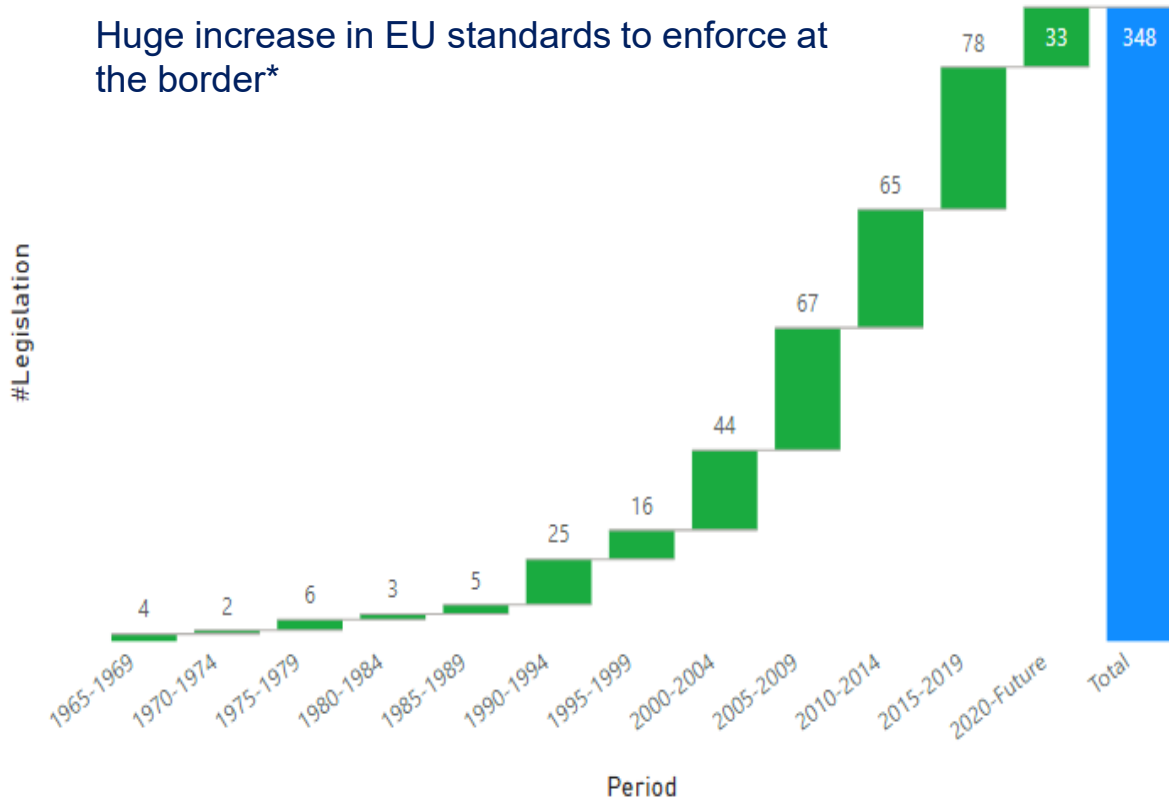
It is time to take the Customs Union to the next level, equipping it with a stronger framework that will allow us to better protect our citizens and our single market.

I will propose a bold package for an integrated European approach to reinforce customs risk management and support effective controls by the Member States.

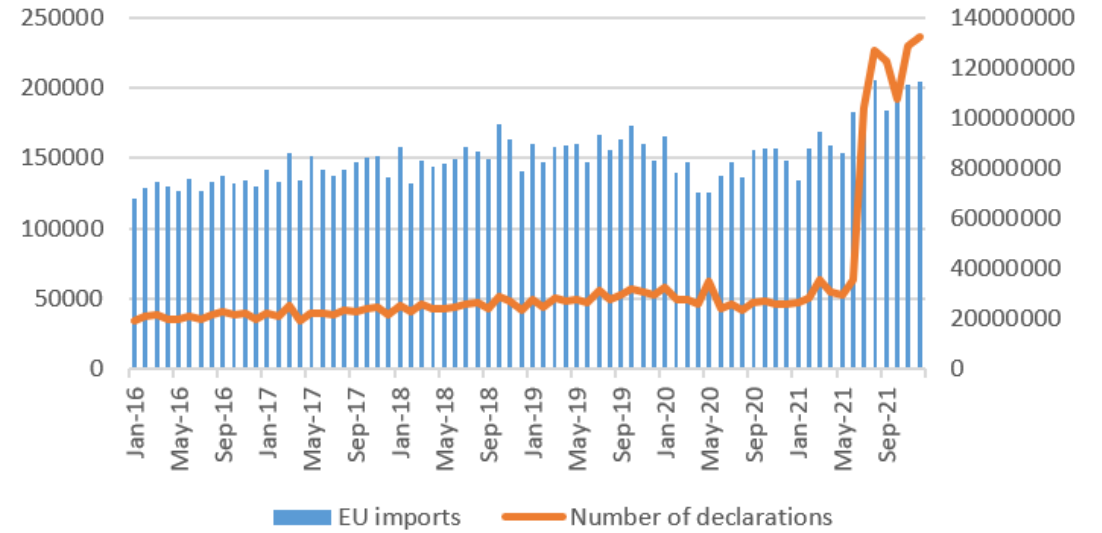
political guidelines, Nov 2019



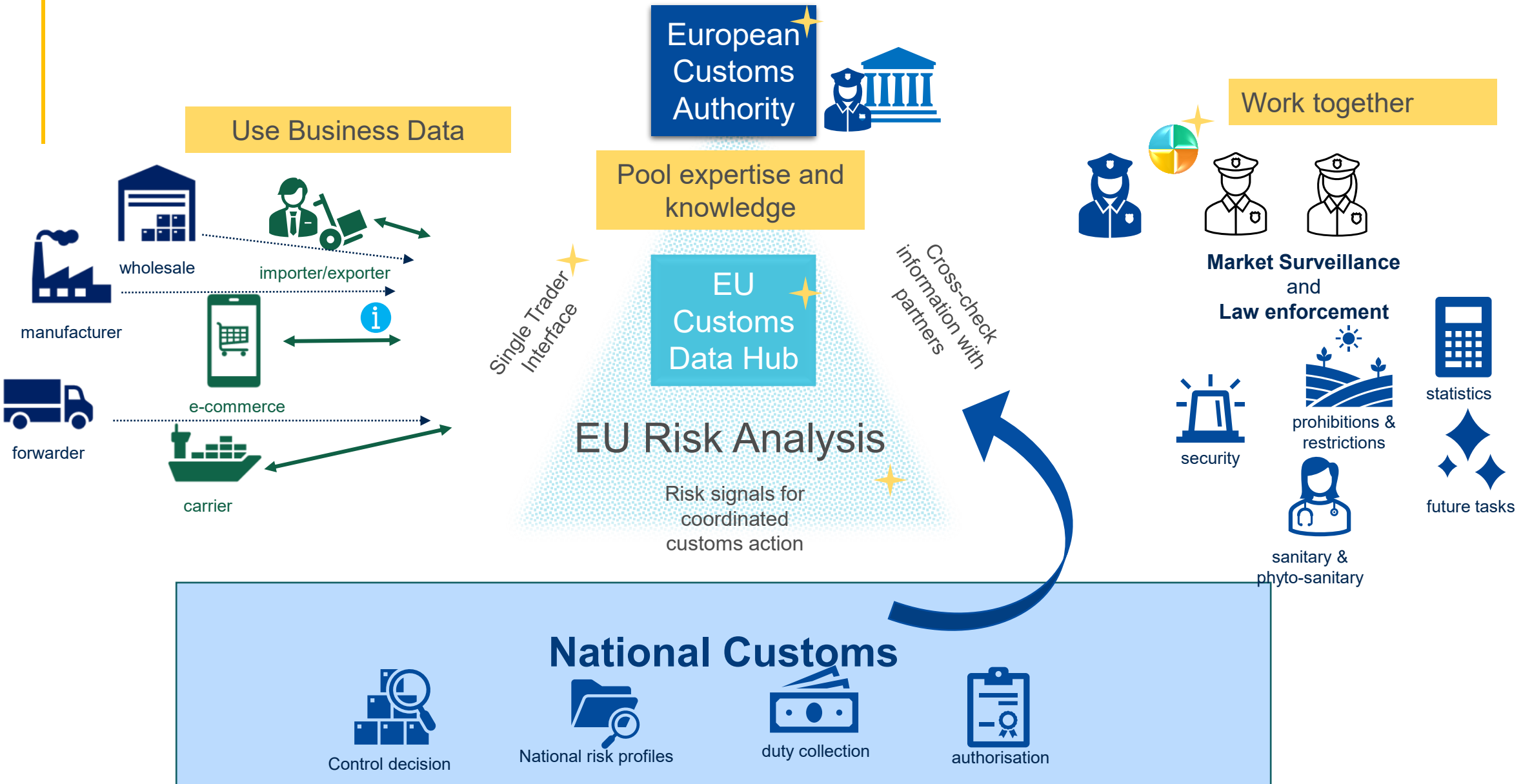
Huge increase in EU standards to enforce at the border*



More and more items declared:



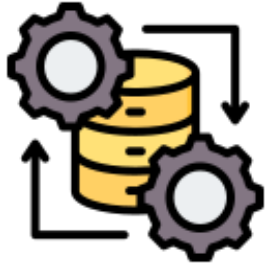
*Recent examples: CBAM, Deforestation, Sustainable Product Passport / Ecodesign, Product Safety directive, Firearms, Digital Services Act



Main objectives of the Customs Reform

- **Reinforce our Customs Union** – one approach at the common external border ‘Act as One’
- **Cut costs for business** – simpler procedures, less red tape
- **Make e-commerce platforms responsible** – a regime designed for online trade
- **Protect the Single Market better** – common EU risk management / Prohibition and Restrictions have to be enforced through Customs
 - **Today:** 27 borders; protection is only as strong as the weakest link. Once inside, goods move freely across the EU.
 - **With the reform:** one EU 27 external border, with central supervision and shared risk management.

EUCA – Tasks



EU Data Hub
A Single Data Entry for
all importers across the
EU27



Risk management



Crisis management



**Capacity building,
operational support and
coordination**

Big gains for business:

- ✓ **One EU data portal**
- ✓ **Submit data once** for multiple consignments across countries
- ✓ **Quicker and simpler clearance** for trusted traders and AEOs
- ✓ **Consistent enforcement** at a lower cost

Estimated over €2bn annual savings for member states

State of the Art data sovereignty and protection of commercial data



Trust and Check traders – partnership benefits

- ✓ T&C no clearance by consignment/ no payment of customs fees at the border – payment periodically
- ✓ Release on behalf of customs does not require customs intervention
- ✓ Self-calculation of duty is the rule
- ✓ No obligation to place in transit from entry MS to destination MS
- ✓ Ex post controls on T&C – possibility to lose the T&C licence
- ✓ AEO reinforced for SMEs

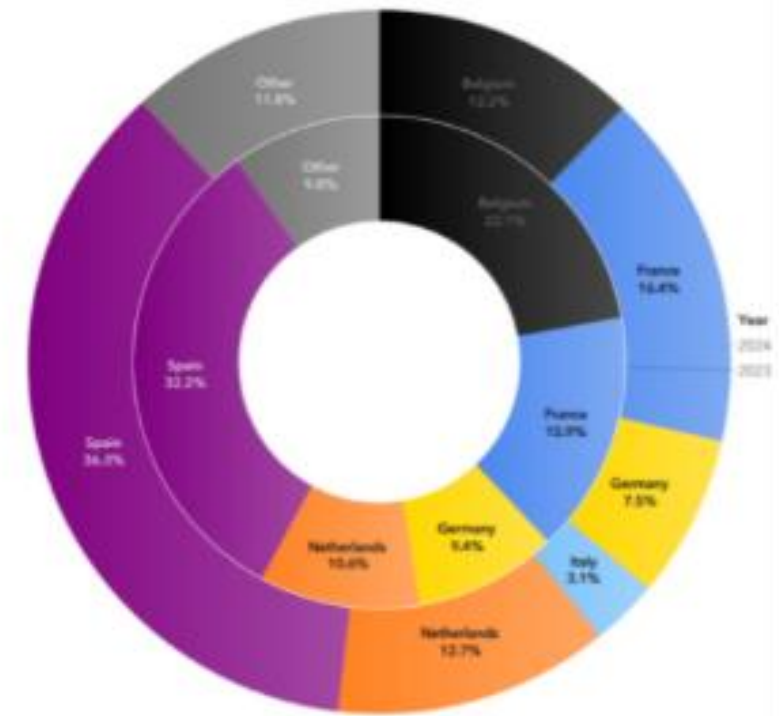
➤ Customs Authorities focused to controlling risky actors



Increased security dimension: Customs and security

- Enforce sanctions on Russian imports, control exports that could support the Russian military, and facilitate the movement of military goods across NATO.
- Fight organized crime remains a priority. The European Ports Alliance and cooperation with businesses, law enforcement and international partners are key.

CHART 14: SHARE OF EU MEMBER STATES IN TOTAL DRUGS SEIZED (2023-2024)



Source: CUP Network



Source: Spanish Customs Authorities

E-commerce is posing a risk to the EU

Since 2021, **drastic increase** of customs declarations in e-commerce* (more than 5.8bn by end-2025) without effective controls:

- 65% of the e-commerce consignments are undervalued → **revenue loss**
 - 66% of products purchased online are not meeting EU product compliance (including safety) requirements → **citizens are not protected**
 - 93% of small parcels come from China
 - Traders split consignments into smaller batches → **negative environmental impact.**
- EU 27 wide e-commerce control action 2025; 6 campaigns: 55% of checked products were non-compliant; 84% of lab-tested items were non-compliant or dangerous.

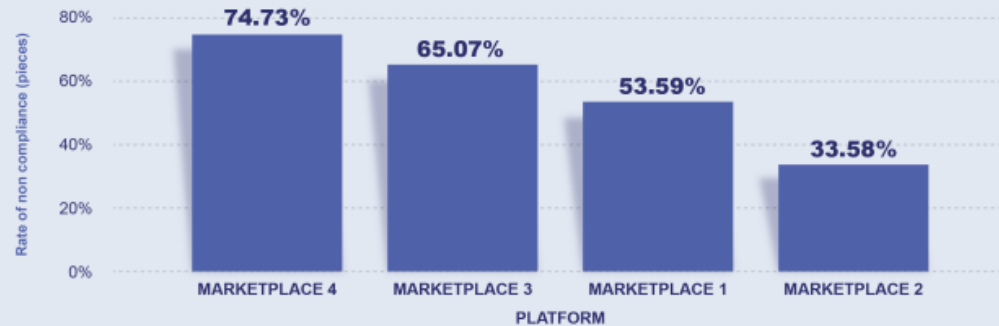
E-commerce is posing a risk to EU consumers



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT TOTAL NUMBER OF PIECES CHECKED

RATE OF NON COMPLIANCE BY MARKETPLACE - PPE (PIECES)

October - November 2025



Total number of pieces checked by marketplace - PPE (pieces)

60%

rate of not-compliance (pieces)

**PPE - GLOBAL RATE
OF NON-COMPLIANCE**
B2C consignments - EU wide



COSMETICS TOTAL NUMBER OF PIECES CHECKED

RATE OF NON COMPLIANCE BY MARKETPLACE - COSMETICS (PIECES)

October - November 2025



Total number of pieces checked by marketplace - Cosmetics (pieces)

65%

rate of not-compliance (pieces)

**COSMETICS - GLOBAL RATE
OF NON-COMPLIANCE**
B2C consignments - EU wide

E-commerce is posing a risk to EU consumers



Taylor-made e-commerce regime

Customs Reform:

- ✓ Large platforms will be responsible to ensure compliance with EU rules (financial and non-financial):
- ✓ **Removal of the 150 EUR de minimis**
- ✓ **Consumers will be freed from compliance burden** and protected from unpleasant surprises, like unexpected costs and burdensome customs formalities.
- ✓ The **EU Customs Data Hub** facilitates processing of data, helping customs and platforms to absorb the compliance burden.

Customs reform and product compliance controls

Customs Reform:

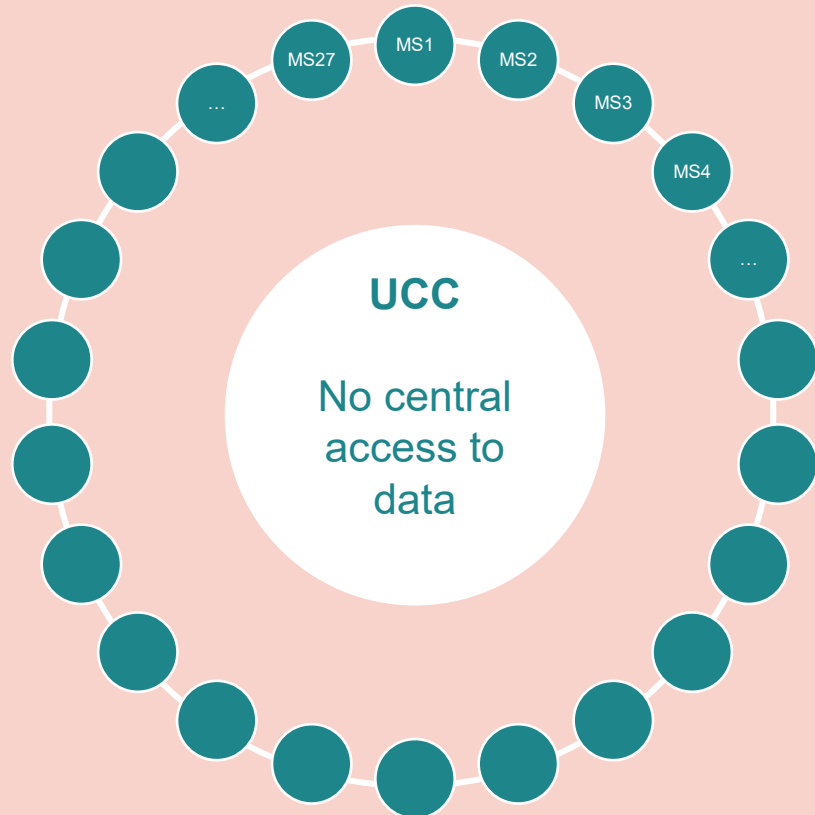
- ✓ **EU-level risk management**, coordinated by the EU Customs Authority, for more harmonised border controls.
- ✓ **Better data through the EU Customs Data Hub** to spot risks earlier, including in e-commerce supply chains, and stop dangerous or non-compliant goods before they enter the EU.
- ✓ **Stronger cooperation with market surveillance authorities for information-sharing**, joint supervision and coordinated enforcement.
- ✓ **Deemed importer rules** making platforms or suppliers responsible for both customs and compliance obligations.
- ✓ **New business models**, including more bulk imports, making controls easier and more effective.

EU Customs Data Hub

Today:

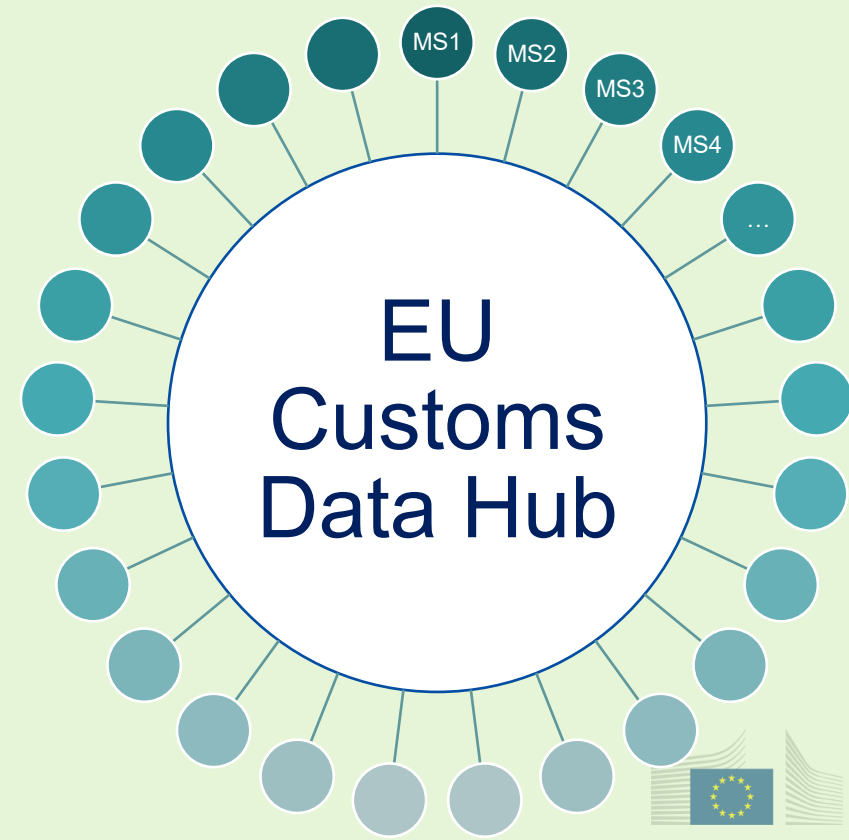
111 separate IT systems across 27 Member States.

No central database, no central supply chain supervision.



Reform:

Central Customs Data Hub – full supervision on what comes in and goes out.



Timeline of the Customs reform

- **26th of March 2026** *Political Trilogue to conclude negotiations*
(final dates to be agreed)

2028: EUCA ready and EU Customs Data Hub starts with e-commerce

2030/32: Data Hub expands to all traders and becomes the single EU customs entry point

2034/37: Data Hub expands to all traders and becomes the single EU customs entry point



Thank you



© European Union 2025

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide xx: [element concerned](#), source: [e.g. Fotolia.com](#); Slide xx: [element concerned](#), source: [e.g. iStock.com](#)

