1.13 EU Single Window environment for customs

1. Description and Justification

The Single Window (SW) is defined as a facility which allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardised information and documents with a single entry point to fulfill all import, export and transit-related regulatory requirements (cf. UNECE recommendation 33). If information is electronic, then individual data elements should be submitted only once.

The EU Single Window environment for customs is focused on customs formalities and involves stakeholders dealing with cross-border movement of goods.

Given the complexity of the SW concept as such, the initiative foresees several implementation components. It started with the enabling of automated validation of supporting documents (i.e. certificates and licences) to the customs declaration, using the EU Customs SW IT solution of DG TAXUD.

The first component is the EU SW-CVED project, implementing the validation of the Common Veterinary Entry Document (CVED) for animals and animal products, as well as the Common Entry Document (CED).

The second component, "EU Customs SW: Certificates Exchange", builds on the outcomes of the EU SW-CVED and foresees expansion of its scope with additional certificates, as well as enhanced functionalities.

The third component does not envisage the development of a new IT solution, but rather deals with the interoperability of already existing solutions. It is about the definition of a broader scope of the EU Single Window environment for customs (beyond the certificates' exchange), preparation of the legal framework to cover this scope and the action plan for its implementation.

2. Objectives

The objective of the EU Single Window environment for customs is to enable EOs to electronically lodge, and only once, all the information required by customs and non-customs legislation for EU cross-border movements of goods. The inititative is split into three components:

1. EU SW-CVED

The aim of the EU SW-CVED project is to provide for automated validity checks of the CVED and CED certificates submitted with customs declarations. This project consists in interconnecting the MS Customs Systems and the DG SANTE certificates database TRACES, which holds the CVED and CED certificates, through the DG TAXUD IT solution. The system is operational, and the release 1.4.0 of the EU SW-CVED, scheduled to be ready for Conformance Testing in Q3 2017, is planned to be the last release of this component. Therefore, the planning for Release 1.4.0 will not be provided in the planning chapter. This component will be followed by the "EU Customs SW: Certificates exchange", which will start from Release 2.0 (as this will be an evolution from the EU SW-CVED), and will take over the functionalities of EU SW-CVED.

2. EU Customs SW: Certificates Exchange

The project envisages:

(1) the enhancement of the functionalities of the EU SW-CVED by adding the push back and the quantity management functionality, and the possibility to generate and transmit certificates in a human-readable format (i.e. PDF) for the three certificates currently available in the EU SW-CVED (CVEDA, CVEDP and CED)

and

(2) addition of 3 new certificates - FLEGT (DG ENV), COI (DG AGRI) and CHED-PP (DG SANTE), envisaging the same functionalities as for the CVEDA, CVEDP and CED after the above-mentioned enhancement. All three new certificates are (or will be) managed by TRACES (TRACES NT) administered by DG SANTE.

Initially, the project will be limited to connecting the EU Customs SW to TRACES/TRACES NT since the six certificates falling in scope (CVEDA, CVEDP, CED, FLEGT, COI and CHED-PP) are (or will be) managed within TRACES/TRACES NT. However, looking at the perspectives of the EU Customs SW evolution, other certificates hosted on a database different than TRACES/TRACES NT may be added. This will be formalised through an addendum to the Business Case and other project documentation, as well as will be reflected in the MASP through its updates.

The addition of the new certificates and the transition of CVED/CED from *EU SW-CVED* to *EU Customs SW: Certificates Exchange* will be enabled gradually in the following sequence: (1) FLEGT, (2) COI, (3) CHED-PP and (4) migration of CVED/CED. Therefore, separate planning is provided for each of these steps in the chapter below.

3. EU SW environment for customs

In parallel with these activities a Customs 2020 Project Group has been set up to study a possible framework to develop the EU Single Window environment for customs including its legal aspects. This Project Group is expected to tackle the global vision of the EU SW environment for customs, the necessary legal basis, as well as the Action Plan to establish such environment. The activities of the Project Group will cover the scope beyond the exchange of the certificates covered by the first two components, but the work within the components will be closely aligned, as the legal framework to be established by the Project Group is to cover the legal needs of the certificates' exchange.

3. Systems Owner

DG TAXUD Unit B1 (Processes and Data, Customer relationship and planning)

Project Owner

DG TAXUD Unit B1 (Processes and Data, Customer relationship and planning) for the overall Single Window initiative

NB: DG TAXUD Unit A5 (Protection of Citizens and Enforcement of IPR), policy unit for prohibitions and restrictions

Owner of Legislation

DG TAXUD Unit B1 (Processes and Data, Customer relationship and planning)

The EU Single Window environment for customs is supported by the Electronic Customs Decision No 70/2008/EC, owned by DG TAXUD Unit B1 (Processes and Data, Customer relationship and planning). The Project Group mentioned in the Component 3 and administered by DG TAXUD Unit B1 is working on the future legislative proposal.
DG TAXUD Unit B1 is responsible for the evolution of the e-Customs Decision maintenance and evolution to possibly support the EU Customs Single Window environment for customs.

In particular the EU SW-CVED implementation is supported by DG SANTE legislation.

For the EU Customs SW: Certificates Exchange the respective legislation of DG AGRI, DG ENV and DG SANTE applies.

4. BPM reference

Taxud Folder Structure/EU_Customs/Customs Business Processes/02_CBP L2-L3 HL and Business Requirement BPM/Enabling Business Domains/EU Customs Single Window - Certificate Exchange/CVED-CED

Taxud Folder Structure/EU_Customs/Customs Business Processes/03_CBP L4 Functional Requirement BPM/EU Customs Single Window - Certificate Exchange/CVED-CED ARIS BPMs have been updated in Q1 2017 for the Release 1.4.0 of the EU SW-CVED.

New BPMs for the EU Customs SW: Certificates Exchange will be gradually published in Q1 and Q2 2017.

5. Legal Basis

Basic provision:

DG TAXUD legislation:

- Decision No 70/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2008 on a paperless environment for customs and trade – Art. 6

The detailed list of the legislation of DG SANTE, DG AGRI and DG ENV on the respective certificates in the scope of the project is listed in the Annex 1 to the "EU Customs SW: Certificates Exchange" Business Case, available on CIRCABC>E-Customs> Electronic Customs Initiative > EU Single Window program>EU Customs SW Business Case Certificate Exchange.

Implementing provision: Decision No 70/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2008 on a paperless environment for customs and trade

Competent body: CCC for legislation and ECCG for project management

Future basic provision: Revised Electronic Customs decision

Future implementing provision: Revised Electronic Customs decision

Competent body: CCC for legislation and ECCG for project management

6. References and Key Activities

MASP Rev. 16 reference: 1.13 EU Single Window programme

Milestones and deadlines for the Component 2 "EU Customs SW: Certificates Exchange" - FLEGT (approved by ECCG)

	Milestone	Estimated completion date
1	**Business Analysis and Business Modelling**	
	− Business Case Document	Q1 2017
	− Level 3 (Business Requirements BPM)	Q2 2017
	− Level 4 (Functional Requirement detailed BPM)	Q2 2017
2	**Legal Provision**	
	− Current provisions adopted	In force
	− Future provisions in application	Q1 2019
3	**Project Initiation Phase**	
	− Vision Document	Q2 2017
	− GO decision	Q2 2017
4	**IT Project**	
	Elaboration Phase	
	− Application & Service Specifications	Q4 2017
	− Technical System Specifications	Q4 2017
	Construction Phase	
	− Central services implementation	Q1 2018
	− Service integration in National Systems	From Q1 2018 onwards
	− National implementation	From Q1 2018 onwards
	Transition Phase	
	− Deploy and Rollout	Q1 2018
	− Conformance tests	From Q1 2018 onwards
5	**Operation**	
	− Commission, Member States administrations and Traders	From Q1 2018 onwards
	− Non-EU Countries and non-EU traders (in case required)	N/A
6	**Implementation support (training and communication)**	
	− Centrally developed training and communication	N/A
	− National training and communication	N/A

Operational status: ~~YES~~/NO

Milestones and deadlines for the Component 2 "EU Customs SW: Certificates Exchange" - COI (approved by ECCG)

	Milestone	Estimated completion date
1	**Business Analysis and Business Modelling**	
	− Business Case Document	Q1 2017

	Milestone	Estimated completion date
	− Level 3 (Business Requirements BPM)	Q2 2017
	− Level 4 (Functional Requirement detailed BPM)	Q2 2017
2	**Legal Provision**	
	− Current provisions adopted	In force
	− Future provisions in application	Q1 2019
3	**Project Initiation Phase**	
	− Vision Document	Q2 2017
	− GO decision	Q2 2017
4	**IT Project**	
	Elaboration Phase	
	− Application & Service Specifications	Q4 2017
	− Technical System Specifications	Q4 2017
	Construction Phase	
	− Central services implementation	Q1 2018
	− Service integration in National Systems	From Q1 2018 onwards
	− National implementation	From Q1 2018 onwards
	Transition Phase	
	− Deploy and Rollout	Q1 2018
	− Conformance tests	From Q1 2018 onwards
5	**Operation**	
	− Commission, Member States administrations and Traders	From Q1 2018 onwards
	− Non-EU Countries and non-EU traders (in case required)	N/A
6	**Implementation support (training and communication)**	
	− Centrally developed training and communication	N/A
	− National training and communication	N/A

Operational status: ~~YES~~/NO

Milestones and deadlines for the Component 2 "EU Customs SW: Certificates Exchange" – CHED-PP (approved by ECCG)

	Milestone	Estimated completion date
1	**Business Analysis and Business Modelling**	
	− Business Case Document	Q1 2017
	− Level 3 (Business Requirements BPM)	Q3 2017
	− Level 4 (Functional Requirement detailed BPM)	Q3 2017
2	**Legal Provision**	
	− Current provisions adopted	In force
	− Future provisions in application	Q1 2019
3	**Project Initiation Phase**	
	− Vision Document	Q2 2017
	− GO decision	Q2 2017

4	**IT Project**	
	Elaboration Phase	
	− Application & Service Specifications	Q1 2018
	− Technical System Specifications	Q1 2018
	Construction Phase	
	− Central services implementation	Q3 2018
	− Service integration in National Systems	From Q3 2018 onwards
	− National implementation	From Q3 2018 onwards
	Transition Phase	
	− Deploy and Rollout	Q3 2018
	− Conformance tests	From Q3 2018 onwards
5	**Operation**	
	− Commission, Member States administrations and Traders	From Q3 2018 onwards
	− Non-EU Countries and non-EU traders (in case required)	N/A
6	**Implementation support (training and communication)**	
	− Centrally developed training and communication	N/A
	− National training and communication	N/A

Operational status: ~~YES~~/NO

Milestones and deadlines for the Component 2 "EU Customs SW: Certificates Exchange" – CVED/CED (approved by ECCG)

	Milestone	*Estimated completion date*
1	**Business Analysis and Business Modelling**	
	− Business Case Document	Q1 2017
	− Level 3 (Business Requirements BPM)	Q3 2017
	− Level 4 (Functional Requirement detailed BPM)	Q3 2017
2	**Legal Provision**	
	− Current provisions adopted	In force
	− Future provisions in application	Q1 2019
3	**Project Initiation Phase**	
	− Vision Document	Q2 2017
	− GO decision	Q2 2017
4	**IT Project**	
	Elaboration Phase	
	− Application & Service Specifications	Q1 2018
	− Technical System Specifications	Q1 2018
	Construction Phase	
	− Central services implementation	Q3 2018
	− Service integration in National Systems	From Q3 2018 onwards
	− National implementation	From Q3

		2018 onwards
	Transition Phase	
	− Deploy and Rollout	Q3 2018
	− Conformance tests	From Q3 2018 onwards
5	**Operation**	
	− Commission, Member States administrations and Traders	From Q3 2018 onwards
	− Non-EU Countries and non-EU traders (in case required)	N/A
6	**Implementation support (training and communication)**	
	− Centrally developed training and communication	N/A
	− National training and communication	N/A

Operational status: ~~YES~~/NO

Milestones and deadlines for the Component 3: potential legislative initiative on the EU SW environment for customs (subject to the results of the Customs 2020 PG to study a possible framework to develop the EU SW environment for customs, including the legal context)

	Milestone	*Estimated completion date*
1	**Evaluation of the electronic customs implementation in the EU**	Q1 2015
2	**Agenda Planning Fiche** (Commission Work Programme)	Q2 2017
3	**Inception Impact Assessment**	Q3 2017
4	**External study**	Q4 2017 – Q3 2018
5	**Stakeholder Consultation**	
	− **Consultation strategy publication**	Q3 2017
	− **Open Public Consultation (OPC)**	Q1 – Q2 2018
	− **Targeted consultation**	2017 – 2018
6	**Impact Assessment**	Q4 2018
7	**Draft COM proposal**	Q4 2019
8	**Inter-service consultation**	Early 2020
9	**Adoption by the College**	Early 2020

7. Expected IT architecture

Development method: Central

Operation method: Central

8. Dependencies of the EU SW environment for customs project

    a. Link to other projects:

        i. TRACES NT (DG SANTE)

    b. What is needed to start this project:

        i. N/A

    c. This project is needed for the following subsequent projects:

        i. Future phases of the EU SW for customs projects

    d. Impact on existing system(s):

        i. National Customs Declaration Processing Systems

        ii. ICS

        iii. UCC NCTS

        iv. UCC AES

        v. National SWs in MS

        vi. CS/RD2