



INFORMATION SHEET ON I.T. PROJECTS

Last update: 05/01/2007

PROJECT TQS (Tariff Quota and Surveillance system)	
SUMMARY System for the management of tariff quotas/ceilings and surveillance monitoring	
LEGAL BASIS	
General	Council Regulation (EEC) N° 2913 dd. 12 October 1992 "Community Customs Code", Art 20
Mandatory use of I.T.	None
DESCRIPTION	
<u>Contents:</u> The customs tariff of the EU includes conventional and autonomous preferential tariff measures which take the form of customs duty reductions or exemptions on release for free circulation. Some of these measures are limited by quantity, in the form of tariff quotas or tariff ceilings. The Commission checks that the total quantity for all applications made by traders in the Member States does not exceed the limit for quota, and records when the limit for ceilings is reached. The surveillance of the quantities imported is a monitoring activity, which serves as input to trade and tariff negotiations.	
<u>Process:</u> Tariff Quotas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Member States transmit their requests for allocation to the Commission on a daily basis; the Commission returns the allocated amounts and informs all Member States of the available quantities remaining.– The available quantities can be consulted by the public on the Europa Server (DDS). Surveillance/Tariff ceilings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Member States can directly input their statistics for goods movements up until 3/12/2006 in a Commission-based Web application or send them via an agreed interface. Likewise, consolidated statistics can be consulted in the Web application and are sent by the Commission on a monthly basis via the interface.	
STATUS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Current system has been operational since 11/10/2005.- Production open to new Member States; no major problems reported after enlargement.- Surveillance today: two formats available (F1 & F2), two ways to communicate the data changes (cumulative or differential). Current situation: F1 format (cumulative): AT, ES, FI, GR, IE, LV, SE and UK; F1 format (differential): CZ, DE, and PL; F2 format (cumulative): none; F2 format (differential): BE, FR, HU, NL, PT, SI and SK; Web Surveillance (only): CY, DK, EE, IT, LT, LU and MT.- Surveillance strategy: new interface in production since 01/01/2007. TQS Surveillance part only available for some weeks in 2007 to upload surveillance data on goods movements until 31/12/2006.- Quota strategy: new interface: ITE recommendations as a basis for analysis (unique interface for the definition of a quota covering both the duty rate part (currently TARIC) and the management part (currently Quota); specific interface for the quota requests and the allocation results).	
PLANNED ACTIVITIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2007: new functional release for Tariff Quotas.- Quota2: new system based on a new interface with the Member States (2006-2007)- TQS-Surveillance: phase-out of system-to-system interface. WebClient will be available for a longer period to consult statistics on goods movements up until 31/12/2006.	
TECHNICAL INFORMATION	
<u>Technical infrastructure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Sun Solaris OS– BEA Weblogic application server 8– Oracle 9 database system, UTF8 as character encoding scheme– Java client– Web Server (Netscape - iPlanet)– The message exchanges with the Member States use the CCN/CSI infrastructure.	