EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
TAXATION AND CUSTOMS UNION
Coordination and programmes
Information technology

INFORMATION SHEET ON I.T. PROJECTS
Last update: 14/03/2007

PROJECT
EBTI (European Binding Tariff Information)

SUMMARY
System for the exchange and consultation of classification decisions by the Member States, in order to support a uniform application of tariff classification against the customs nomenclature.

LEGAL BASIS	
General	Council Regulation (EEC) N° 1715 dd. 26 June 1992.
	(*since 1994*) Council Regulation (EEC) N° 2913 dd. 19 October 1992 "Community Customs Code"
Mandatory use of I.T.	Commission Regulation (EEC) N° 2454/93 dd. 11 October 1993 "Implementing provisions to the Community Customs Code", Art 8

DESCRIPTION
Contents:
A Binding Tariff Information (BTI) is a tariff ruling by one Member State, applicable EU-wide, that provides legal certainty to the trade as to the classification of specific goods, and therefore their tariff treatment and other customs measures for external commerce.
The system stores details of all BTIs issued, therefore it allows checks at frontiers, anti-fraud checks, and a common policy for issuing BTIs. Multilingual support is provided through the inclusion of images and multilingual index of keywords.
Since 1/1/2001, the exchange of BTI application information has been integrated in the system.
Process:
−   Member States update the central database of the Commission. Consequently, all Member States have the possibility to consult and/or download all BTI applications and issued BTIs.

STATUS

−   A new Web-based system, EBTI-3, went live on 19 April 2004 and was developed to:
    −   support new languages,
    −   provide full support to the open interface (including for the BTI application information), and
    −   avoid the need to deploy application software in the candidate countries.
−   Development of national systems is encouraged through the definition of an open interface. DE, GB, PL and HU are already using successfully such an open interface.
−   An ad-hoc development was made to allow Candidate Countries to translate the thesaurus contents; translations can now be uploaded into EBTI-3.
−   Complete conversion of historical data (from previous system).

PLANNED ACTIVITIES
New thesaurus management development & functionality: ▪   adding new keywords/end-date ▪   create facilities for obsolete keywords /synonyms/queries However, requirements still need to be produced by users before these activities can take place.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION
Technical infrastructure: −   Sun Solaris OS −   BEA WebLogic application server 8 −   Oracle 9 database system, UTF-8 as character encoding scheme −   CCN network between the Commission and the National Administrations −   Web browser