



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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

### INFORMATION SHEET ON I.T. PROJECTS

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| <b>PROJECT</b><br>EWSE (Early Warning System for Excises)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>SUMMARY</b><br>EWSE enables central liaison offices in Member States to exchange information or warning messages as soon as they are in possession of the AAD (Administrative Accompanying Document) information, and at the latest when the products are dispatched. As part of this exchange of information, a risk analysis based on the AAD information is carried out before a message is sent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>LEGAL BASIS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>General</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Council Regulation (EC) No 2073/2004 of 16 November 2004 on administrative co-operation in the field of excise duties (OJ L 359, 04/12/2004 P. 0001 – 0010) – Article 23 |
| <b>Mandatory use of I.T.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | As above                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>DESCRIPTION</b><br>EWSE was one of the recommendations (in the short term and awaiting EMCS) in the High Level Group Report in the excise field, published in 1998. EWSE was introduced for movements concerning spirits and tobacco products.<br>After a pilot operation using the AFIS message handling system (provided by OLAF), EWSE was eventually extended to all Member States for use on a voluntary basis. Because of the earlier absence of a legal basis, an administrative arrangement had been approved by the Excise Committee on the procedures to be used for EWSE. Since 1/7/2005, EWSE is introduced officially in Council Regulation (EC) No 2073/2004 – Article 23. The same article specifies that EWSE is an electronic system between Central Liaison Offices.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>STATUS</b><br>The Excise Committee of 7-8 November 2002 decided to withdraw EWSE from AFIS onto CCN (network provided by TAXUD) and gave the mandate to the Commission (TAXUD) to explore an alternative solution for the exchange of EWSE messages as soon as possible.<br><br>In this framework, the following steps have been performed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Production of system specification for EWSE e-forms using CCN Mail, review and subsequent acceptance by the Excise Committee;</li><li>- Development of the EWSE e-forms, and testing in all MSA;</li><li>- Operation of the EWSE e-forms since 24 May 2004; the development, test and deployment of the EWSE e-forms using CCN Mail for their exchange between Member States have been completed by 01/05/2004 (approximate date fixed by OLAF to withdraw its support to the EWSE application running on AFIS).</li><li>- Corrective maintenance and production of a second version of the EWSE e-forms (Step 2.1) operational as from 1 March 2005.</li><li>- System Specifications for the Step 2.2 of EWSE e-forms (in all official EU languages) and subsequent approval by the Excise Committee in 4Q 2005. This version takes into account modifications in the EWSE administrative arrangement and the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 2073/2004, and takes advantage of enhanced technology (CCN mail II).</li><li>- Development and start of conformance tests before the end of 2005.</li></ul> |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The second version of EWSE e-forms using CCN-Mail II (Step 2.2) will be tested and deployed early 2006 with an entry into operation planned for 1/2/2006.</li><li>- The planned developments are part of the EMCS Phase 0. Refer to the EMCS project sheet.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                          |

**TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

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