



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an action programme for customs in the European Union for the period 2014-2020 (Customs 2020) and repealing Decision No 624/2007/EC **(first reading)**

- Adoption of the legislative act (LA + S)
- = Statements

Statement by the Council

Effective, efficient, modern and harmonised approaches to customs controls at the external border of the EU are essential:

- to protect the financial interests of the Union and its Member States;
- to fight against illegal trade while allowing facilitations for legitimate business activity;
- to ensure the safety and security of the Union and its inhabitants, and the protection of the environment;

- to protect intellectual property rights, and
- to secure compliance with the common commercial policy.

In order to exercise such controls, it is crucial for customs to have access to the appropriate tools, such as detection equipment and technology. The need for these tools is exemplified, amongst others, in the 2011 Europol's Organized Crime Threat Assessment Report, which states that the economic impact of cigarette smuggling represents a loss to budgets of the Member States and of the Union estimated at around 10 billion Euros per year.

At present, the several instruments of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) available to co-fund the acquisition of such tools are not exploited to the fullest extent. To achieve efficient allocation of funding resources, the Council invites the Commission to present a report, no later than mid-2018, on the provision of the necessary financial resources to purchase appropriate tools for customs controls in the area referred to in Art. 3(a) of the TFEU, including the possibility of allocating these resources through a single fund.

Statement by the Council and the Commission

This Regulation cannot be interpreted as including or conferring any powers or obligations which fall under Title V of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
