**4.29. Chapter 29: Customs union**

*All Member States are part of the EU customs union and follow the same customs rules and procedures. This requires legislative alignment as well as adequate implementing and enforcement capacity and access to the common computerised customs systems.*

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| The country has a **good level of preparation** in the area of customs union. **Good progress** was made on legislation and administrative and operational capacity, although introducing fees for customs declarations is a step backwards. Certain customs provisions of the Law on Special Zones for Technological and Industrial Development are still not in line with the *acquis*. In the coming year, the country should in particular: → remove fees for customs declarations; → finalise and consolidate ongoing IT projects, ensuring the maintenance and business continuity of the IT systems. |

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On 1 January 2015, fees were introduced for lodging and processing customs declarations, which is not in line with the acquis or the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

The country’s July 2015 accession to the conventions on a common transit procedure and on the simplification of formalities in trade in goods will significantly facilitate trade. The 2015 customs tariff was adopted in line with the latest changes in the EU Combined Nomenclature. A new Law on Representation in Customs Procedure defines the status of authorised and licensed representatives and lays down criteria for issuing authorisations and licences for customs representations. In May, a new Law on Customs Measures for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Protection was adopted which regulates actions to be taken by customs related to goods that are suspected of infringing IPR.

Good progress was made on **administrative and operational capacity**. Professional integrity standards and internal control measures were implemented systematically. Risk management was further developed and a new risk analysis module in transit operations was introduced. The use of simplified procedures is well developed. Capacities for carrying out customs controls and combating cross-border crime were strengthened. Improved inter-agency cooperation and exchange of information continued to result in seizures of drugs and counterfeit goods. Cooperation with neighbouring customs administrations continued, including through joint operations, and cooperation agreements with the Serbian, Hungarian and Chinese customs administrations were signed. The agreement on the country’s participation in the EU’s Customs 2020 programme was ratified. In relation to **IT**, the ‘new computerised transit system’ is fully operational since March 2014 and its maintenance was secured. The common communication network/common system interface was installed and successfully tested. The integrated tariff environment system was completed. Some of its functions are in use and consideration should be given to adding others that would benefit traders. A new system for processing customs declarations is expected to be completed soon.