



## The European Union celebrates the 50th anniversary of the UE Customs Union

### A common European Customs Union means:

- No customs duties at the borders between EU countries
- Common customs duties on goods imported from countries outside the EU
- Common rules on origin for products from outside the EU
- Common definition of customs value.

### Members of the UE Customs Union

Membership Year	Country
<b>1968</b>	Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands
<b>1973</b>	Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom
<b>1981</b>	Greece
<b>1986</b>	Spain, Portugal
<b>1995</b>	Austria, Finland, Sweden
<b>2004</b>	Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic
<b>2007</b>	Bulgaria, Romania
<b>2013</b>	Croatia

Note: Even though all Member States of the European Union are part of the Customs Union, some territories belonging to a Member State are not included in the Customs Union (e.g. the Helgoland island forms part of Germany but is not included in the European Customs Union).

## History of the European Customs Union:

Year	
<b>1968</b>	Since 1968, the Customs Union has been protecting the safety and security of citizens of its Member countries and collecting customs duties that represent an important source of revenue in the EU.
<b>1985</b>	The “Schengen” agreements are named after a small city in Luxembourg. They progressively allow European citizens to travel without border controls.
<b>1987</b>	Introduction of the single administrative document and abolition of hundreds of national documents in order to standardize customs documents and to simplify procedures related to international trade.
<b>1992</b>	The EU adopts the Community Customs Code. It assembles several European regulations and directives regarding customs.
<b>1993</b>	The single market and its 4 freedoms are established: free circulation of goods, of services, of persons and of capitals is now a reality.
<b>1994</b>	Integrated tariff of the European Union in digital format (TARIC) with daily transmissions to the EU Member States is launched. It replaces the first TARIC database with weekly transmissions since 1987.
<b>2003</b>	New computerized transit system becomes operational. It is the first European customs system that used electronic declaration and processing.
<b>2016</b>	The Union Customs Code takes effect. It further modernizes and streamlines customs procedures through further harmonization of legislation applicable throughout the EU. It also introduces a number of IT systems to support harmonized implementation of customs rules and to reduce the administrative burden on legitimate trade. Full implementation of the IT systems is foreseen in steps, with the majority of systems being available by 31 December 2020 and a few further systems being upgraded or deployed in the period up to 2025.
<b>2018</b>	The Customs Union celebrates its 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over 114,000 customs officers work around the clock at airports, border crossings, ports, inland customs offices or customs laboratories. They prevent illegal and/or dangerous goods from entering the EU, while keeping legitimate trade flowing.

To ensure the key functions of the Customs Union, such as:

- Protecting citizens and the environment against many different hazardous goods
- Combating counterfeiting and piracy
- Supporting the fight against fraud, organized crime, drugs and terrorism
- Ensuring the correct payment of duties and taxes due on import into the EU
- Implementing trade policy measures,

the Luxembourg Customs and Excise Administration has more than 430 customs officers.