



# Customs Consultative Committee

## EU Developments

**Celine O'Neill**



# Background

*“It is time to take the Customs Union to the next level, equipping it with a stronger framework that will allow us to better protect our citizens and our single market”*

*“ an integrated European approach to reinforce customs risk management and support effective controls by the Member States.”*

*Ursula Von Der Leyen – President of the European Commission*

# Customs Action Plan

Communication 581/2020: Taking the Customs Union to the Next Level: a Plan for Action published on 28 September 2020

Covers four main areas;

- Risk Management,
- e-Commerce,
- Compliance and
- Customs acting as one.

Seventeen specific actions with proposed implementation dates between 2020 and 2025.

# Wise Persons Group

CAP\* Action 17 – smarter management of the Customs Union

Commission proposed ‘Reflection Group’ comprised of MS and Cion

First, prudent to hear external views so Wise Persons Group was established

12 members, acting in personal capacity, appointed by DG Taxud

Mix of geographic, gender and professional backgrounds

*\* Customs Action Plan - CAP*

WPG report issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

10 specific recommendations, some already covered by CAP

Described as a package that, when taken together, will deliver the necessary changes to allow customs to “*better deal with crises and protect citizens against security threats, that will be future-proof and that will contribute to the twin green and digital transitions*”

Can be summarised as follows;

- A move from transactional declarations to a systems-based approach using data already contained in operators' records
- Declarations based on existing and available commercial data
- More extensive cooperation between customs authorities and agencies on whose behalf customs perform key roles

# Wise Persons Group

- Creation of a central customs agency in order to move from twenty-seven borders to one border
- Removal of the €150 de minimis threshold for customs duty, which has the potential to increase TOR by €1.5bn
- An enhanced ‘Green’ aspiration

Also stressed the need for raising the profile and awareness of customs at a political level

Enhancing trust among all stakeholders

Meetings of EU Customs Director Generals / High Level seminars to discuss the report and complimentary topics

Agreement on need to keep CU agile and flexible

Early involvement of customs in development of sectoral policy and legislation

eCommerce a concern for all

CAP advancing well but linked to reform package which will be presented to College of Commissioners in 2023

Expected implementation starting in 2025