

JCCC Customs Brexit Group Read-out: 25th January 2017

HMRC Brexit update:

- HMRC is taking its steer from the PM's speech and is exploring how to deliver as barrier-free and frictionless customs arrangement with the EU as possible.

CBG: forward-look

- The CBG is the main stakeholder forum for HMRC as it plans for EU Exit.
 - It will support HMRC and other government departments by:
 - Providing information on which facilitations trade want to see prioritised for as barrier-free and frictionless customs arrangement with the EU as possible;
 - Providing a sounding board for HMRC's delivery planning.
 - At the moment, HMRC is in listening-mode and during this time there is a real opportunity for CBG to influence the advice put forward by HMRC on the future customs models. HMRC therefore welcomes the early input of the group. As planning progresses the relationship with the CBG will deepen and working groups will be established.
- HMRC is managing CBG membership to ensure that it is exposed to the full range of stakeholder challenges for EU Exit but is able to function effectively. HMRC presented its membership analysis for comment by members. It is important to note that membership applications for the CBG remain open and will each be considered on merit.
- Provisional discussion topics have been set out for the next CBG meeting:
 - Standing agenda item: European association engagement;
 - HMRC data presentation to discuss granularity of detail.
 - Industry trade body joint position paper: follow-up on the questions posed and changes made to the paper.
 - Ro-Ro traffic: follow-up from an industry trade body paper to discuss end-to-end process for Ro-Ro traffic.
- The agenda will be agreed in the next two weeks. Please contact the CBG secretariat to suggest topics and/or submit papers for discussion.

Discussion summary

- UCC: The CBG discussed CDS. HMRC assured members that CDS is designed to accommodate new functionality, increased volumes and is more flexible to deliver change. Trade flagged that there were a number of areas of the UCC where the definitions were unclear or the previous definitions were preferable.

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- CBG also noted the opportunity of Brexit to change areas of UCC that were seen as undesirable. HMRC has noted the changes suggested by the CBG and will consult further with the JCCC Change and Customs Brexit Groups.
- Industry trade body representatives presented a joint position paper: Trade presented common concerns with export process. Further details of market access databases, non-tariff barriers and clarification of legal text to be discussed among signatories and presented to HMRC.
- An industry trade body representative presented a position paper: CBG discussed a range of facilitations, including wheels-up clearance which HMRC is following up with Border Force.
- An industry trade body representative presented a position paper: Presented analysis of Ro-Ro ports. Ensuing discussion emphasised the importance of engaging across the supply-chain to find a solution. Further analysis of RoRo ports welcomed by HMRC noting their diversity.
- An industry trade body representative presented a position paper: CBG discussed future relationship with the EU, including transit agreements.

Actions

- Following discussion of the market access database, trade to identify the other tools on which they currently rely, the gateway (EU, CU, CTC etc) and whether there is an alternative.
- UCC legislation: trade to identify sections of the UCC need greater clarity.
- Ro-Ro: trade to present any analysis of Ro-Ro supply-chains and ports to HMRC before discussion at the next meeting.
- HMRC will follow-up the discussion on pre-clearance and discuss with relevant members when appropriate.
- CBG members to submit discussion topics and papers to the Secretariat ahead of the next meeting.