



# EU Single Window

**Renata Pauliukaityte**  
**European Commission**  
**Taxation and Customs Union Directorate General**

# Scope of 'Customs SW'

- Goods oriented
- Focused on customs formalities
- Involves stakeholders dealing with cross-border movement of goods

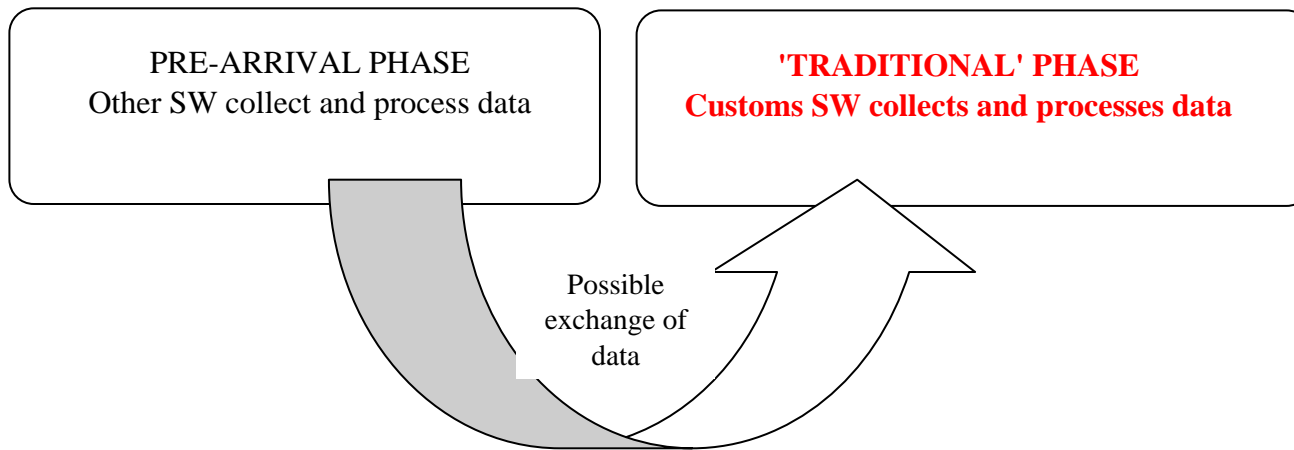
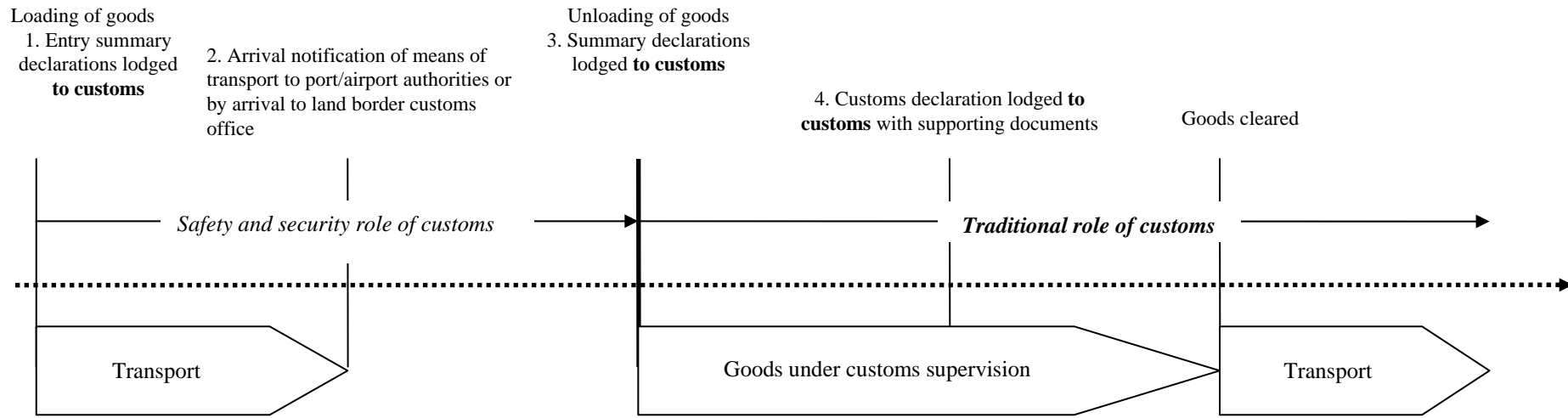
*Customs is the only authority receiving information on all cross-border movement of goods, best placed to co-ordinate after the arrival/discharge of the goods with other involved administrations/agencies (veterinary, phytosanitary, agricultural, etc.)*

# 'Customs SW' in time perspective

*With the exception of the entry summary declaration, the pre-arrival/arrival phase is currently subject to rules that are broader than the customs ones and it is the phase where customs cannot be seen as the coordinating or leading authority for SW development.*

*Consequently, the establishment of 'customs led SW' only makes sense within the traditional business of customs, i.e. for the formalities carried out after the arrival/unloading of goods and related to the lodging of the customs declaration with its supporting documents.*

*At the same time, efforts should be taken to follow the development in the cross-border movements of persons and of means of transport to be able to ultimately interconnect all SW/CBM systems already at the pre-arrival stage.*



# National vs. EU 'Customs SW'

*Given the unique structure of the EU, where both national and EU legislation is applicable to cross-border movements of goods and the different implementing rules/situations in different areas, connections of different kinds of systems at different levels will be required to ensure the desired exchange of information between the authorities:*

- **EU systems implementing EU legislation (such as TRACES in the veterinary area, database for licences for importation and exportation of ozone depleting substances or EDEXIM regarding dangerous chemicals);**
- **national systems implementing EU legislation (such as customs systems, systems for agricultural certificates or implementation of maritime security rules);**
- **national systems implementing national legislation (national restrictions in accordance with Article 36 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union).**

# National vs. EU 'Customs SW'

*At this point in time, DG TAXUD finds it unrealistic to focus on the establishment of a single EU customs SW for the following reasons:*

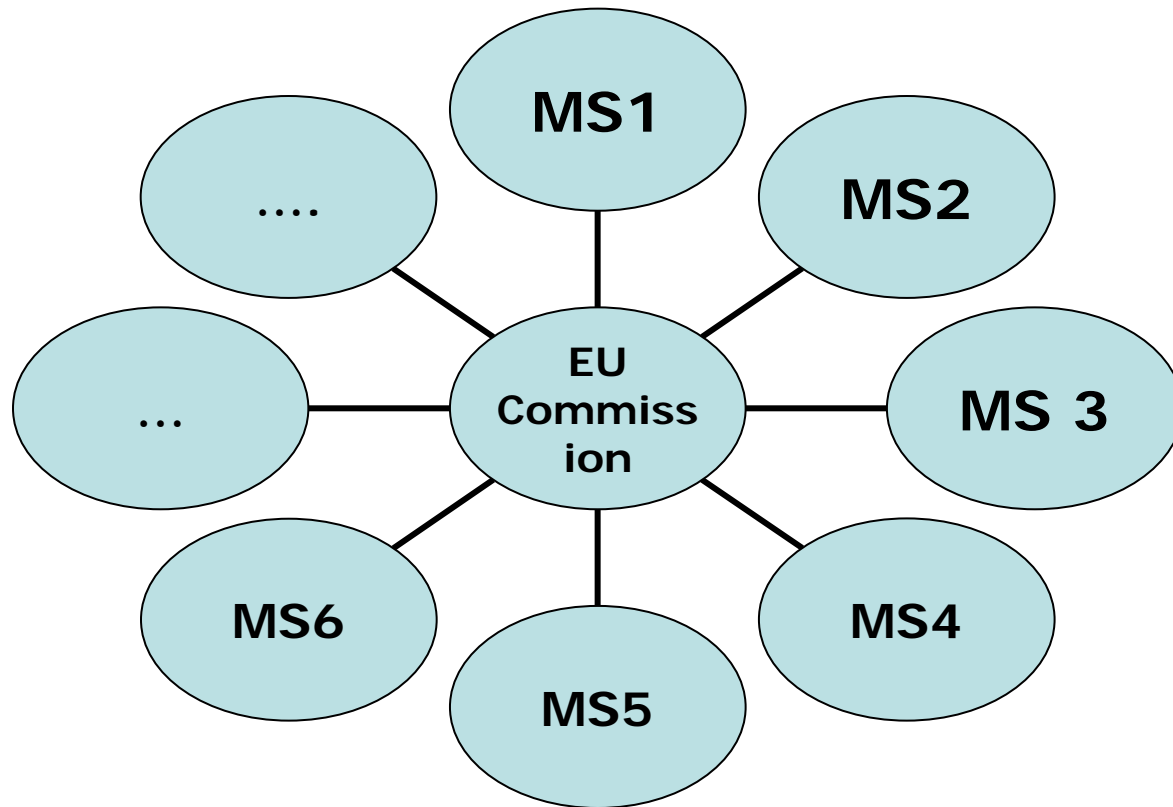
- **general lack of centralised IT supporting systems in the EU;**
- **decentralisation of the IT transaction systems in the 27 MS;**
- **lack of harmonisation (e.g. in the area of relevant legislation and data requirements);**
- **the high number of national authorities involved;**
- **number of languages used;**
- **difficulties linked to the lodgement of any type of declarations or request for other documents with a single point for the EU (e.g. lack of EU-wide solution for the electronic signature, lack of data harmonisation in some areas, etc.).**

## National vs. EU 'Customs SW'

*The first step in a short/mid term way forward would rather be the establishment of national customs SW, connecting customs and non-customs authorities/agencies at the national level between themselves and with traders.*

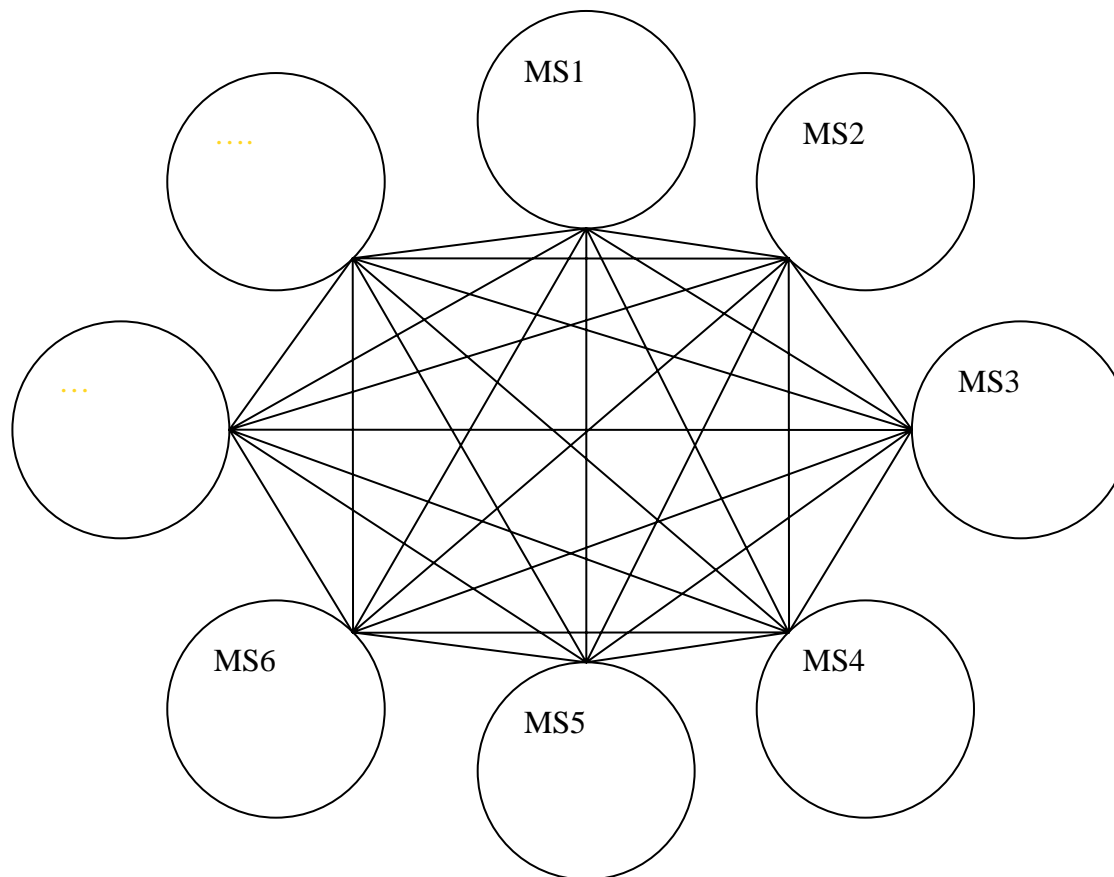
*In order to achieve the strategic objective of establishing and making operational a framework of SW services at the EU level, the national SW must be interoperable between each other in order to cater for the validation of an important number of documents which, although issued by a national administration, are valid throughout the Union.*

# EU systems implementing EU legislation





# National systems implementing EU legislation



# Strategy for EU 'Customs SW'

*The EU 'Customs led SW' will:*

- **be goods oriented;**
- **concentrate on the formalities required after the arrival of goods to the EU;**
- **be developed primarily at the national level based on the agreed standards to ensure interoperability within the EU.**

*DG TAXUD started with the preparatory phase of SW establishment, which concentrated on the preparation of standard functional specifications as requested by the e-customs decision.*

## Preparatory phase (2010)

*The preparatory phase concentrated on the automated electronic checks of validity of documents/licences submitted with customs declarations between the competent national and EU authorities and customs. The standards prepared for this phase represent a set of standard functional specifications of SW services.*

# Preparatory phase

*The preparatory phase encompassed a number of actions based on 2 cases taken as example: Common Veterinary Entry Document ('CVED') (an EU level document) and agricultural licences (a national level document):*

- **Mapping the data elements of the documents concerned against an international standard (UN Trade Data Element Directory)**
- **Standardised messages defined at EU level by the SWPG that will cater for the needs of both national and "international" exchange of the given documents' data with different authorities in the SW framework**
- **Business Process Modelling ('BPM') of the workflows of the specific customs, agricultural and veterinary processes connected with the general customs process regarding customs declaration and its supporting documents**

## Second phase (2011)

*Will establish the actual interconnections between the respective IT systems (and/or invoke building new IT systems where needed) to implement automated electronic checks of validity of documents/licences submitted with customs declarations.*

## Development of full SW

*Finally, it would be necessary to move from the validation of documents to the development of a full SW (expanding from lodging information and documents to allowing stakeholders to request and receive such information or documents from the various competent authorities).*

*SW will be extended to its ultimate users – operators in a harmonised way in all MS.*