EU/New Zealand Agreement on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters

2016/0006(NLE) - 16/04/2018 - Final act

PURPOSE: to conclude the Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2018/601 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters

CONTENT: with this Decision, the Council decided to approve, on behalf of the Union, the Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters. The Agreement had been signed on 3 July 2017, in accordance with Council Decision (EU) 2018/600.

The Agreement:

- provides a comprehensive framework for the EU and New Zealand to **cooperate in the area of customs** with the objective of ensuring effective controls while facilitating legitimate trade;
- promotes modern and simple **procedures** in order to save time and money in getting goods through customs;
- stops **illegal goods** reaching the European market.

Objective: the general objective of the Agreement is to develop and intensify cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters with New Zealand; in particular, to establish the **legal basis for a cooperation framework which aims at securing the supply chain and facilitating legitimate trade**, as well as enabling information exchange to ensure the proper application of customs legislation and the prevention, investigation and combating of breaches of customs legislation.

The Agreement provides a basis to further **develop customs cooperation** in future if warranted, for example through the establishment of Mutual Recognition of respective trade partnership programmes (Authorised Economic Operators in the EU).

Trade cooperation framework: the Agreement also intends to:

- maximise the contribution made by them to the work of the WCO, the WTO and other relevant international organisations in improving customs techniques and in resolving problems of customs procedures, customs enforcement and the facilitation of trade;
- implement international instruments and standards applicable in the area of customs and trade;
- implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement upon its entry into force;
- cooperate in the research, development, testing and evaluation of new customs procedures, and in the training and exchange of personnel and provision of assistance.

Mutual administrative cooperation: the Agreement aims to enable information exchange to ensure the proper application of customs legislation and the prevention, investigation and combating of breaches of customs legislation.

Joint Customs Cooperation Committee: the Agreement seeks to establish a Joint Customs Cooperation Committee, consisting of representatives of the customs and other competent authorities of the Contracting Parties. It shall see to the proper functioning and implementation of this Agreement and shall examine all issues and disputes arising from its application.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 16.4.2018.