N.B. The information provided by individual Member States supplements the information provided by the European Commission

1. Which of the measures outlined in the WCO Resolution on the role of Customs in facilitating the cross-border movement of situationally critical medicines and vaccines has your Customs administration implemented in practice? Please provide details of the implementation.

2. Was any relevant information concerning the Customs clearance of COVID-19 vaccines and the goods and devices used for their shipment and transportation, made publicly available, for example on the Customs administration’s web-site? If yes, please provide a URL. If not made publicly available, was relevant information provided to the supply chain stakeholders – manufacturers, exporters, importers, logistics providers, etc.? On the General Directorate of Customs (www.Customs.ro) website there is a special page in the announcement section on COVID-19 regulations and instructions

3. Was any dedicated guidance made available to the field Customs officers with regard to the Customs clearance of COVID-19 vaccines for export, transit and import, as well as the goods and devices used for the vaccines' shipment and transportation? If yes, please provide details on how the guidance was disseminated.

4. Has any training been provided to the staff of your Customs administration in anticipation of the COVID-19 vaccines distribution effort, for example training for handling of time- and temperature-sensitive items, training for handling of dangerous goods (e.g. dry ice), training for identifying the COVID-19 vaccines on import or export documentation?

Yes. The REACT Anti-Counterfeiting Association, on 18.02.2021, organized an online seminar, on the TEAMS platform, on the identification of COVID-19 vaccines and counterfeit protection masks, held in English, by the representatives of Astra Zeneca, 3M, Pfizer BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson, attended by 21 people from the Customs authority. The invitation arrived through the REACT representative in Romania and was addressed to the Customs of several Member States.

5. What mode of transport was used for the exportation/importation of COVID-19 vaccines from/into your country?

According to public information, in Romania the air transport was used to bring the vaccines and it was then distributed by road in the territory.

6. What are the documents required for the exportation of COVID-19 vaccines from your country? (applies to the Members exporting COVID-19 vaccines)

7. Which national authorities are responsible for the checking and clearing the COVID-19 vaccines shipments for exportation? How is the cooperation between these authorities arranged? (applies to the Members exporting COVID-19 vaccines)

In Romania, the Trade Policy Directorate within the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Business Environment is the competent authority designated for their implementation. Export authorizations
issued in accordance with the provisions of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/111, will be issued electronically, with the digital signature of the Director General - Directorate-General for Foreign Trade. Authorization shall be granted by the competent authorities of the Member State in which the products covered by the Regulation are manufactured and shall be issued in writing or by electronic means.

8. Is there any exchange of information/data between the Customs authorities of the exporting country and the Customs authorities of the importing country? What type of information is exchanged? How is the exchange of information arranged/regulated?

Member States must share information on any illegal transport via Risk Information Forms (RIFs). Member States must carry out checks to verify that batches of vaccines falling within 30022010 are accompanied by a valid authorization. Member States must carry out appropriate controls on consignments falling within tariff code other than 30022010 to confirm that there is no attempt to circumvent the measures related to the need for an export authorization. Completion of formalities should be completed at the Customs office of export, but controls at the office of exit should verify and confirm the identity of the consignment (to ensure that the consignment leaving is the one actually authorized, in particular as regards the authorized volume of goods). The decision to export or not is not a decision of the Customs authority.

9. Was the Customs transit procedure used for the COVID-19 vaccines imported into your country? If yes, why/what was the rationale?

10. Does your administration implement risk management techniques related to the cross-border movement of COVID-19 vaccines?

The General Directorate of Customs has recently developed an inforisk on the export of vaccines. In parallel, other risk products have been developed on medical equipment, since 2020.

11. What are the documents required for the importation of COVID-19 vaccines in your country?

12. Which national authorities are responsible for the checking and clearing the COVID-19 vaccines shipments for importation? How is the cooperation between these authorities arranged?

The Customs authority controls and grants the Customs clearance, as for any goods put into free circulation and verifies authorizations / certificates, etc. necessary for the import of those goods.

13. If information is available, what was the time required for the release of the COVID-19 vaccines shipments imported into your country?

14. Has your government considered duty and tax waivers for the importation of COVID-19 vaccines?

15. Please include any other relevant information you wish to share.