



European Commission
Taxation and Customs Union

Supporting trade facilitation in the Europe region:

The EU perspective

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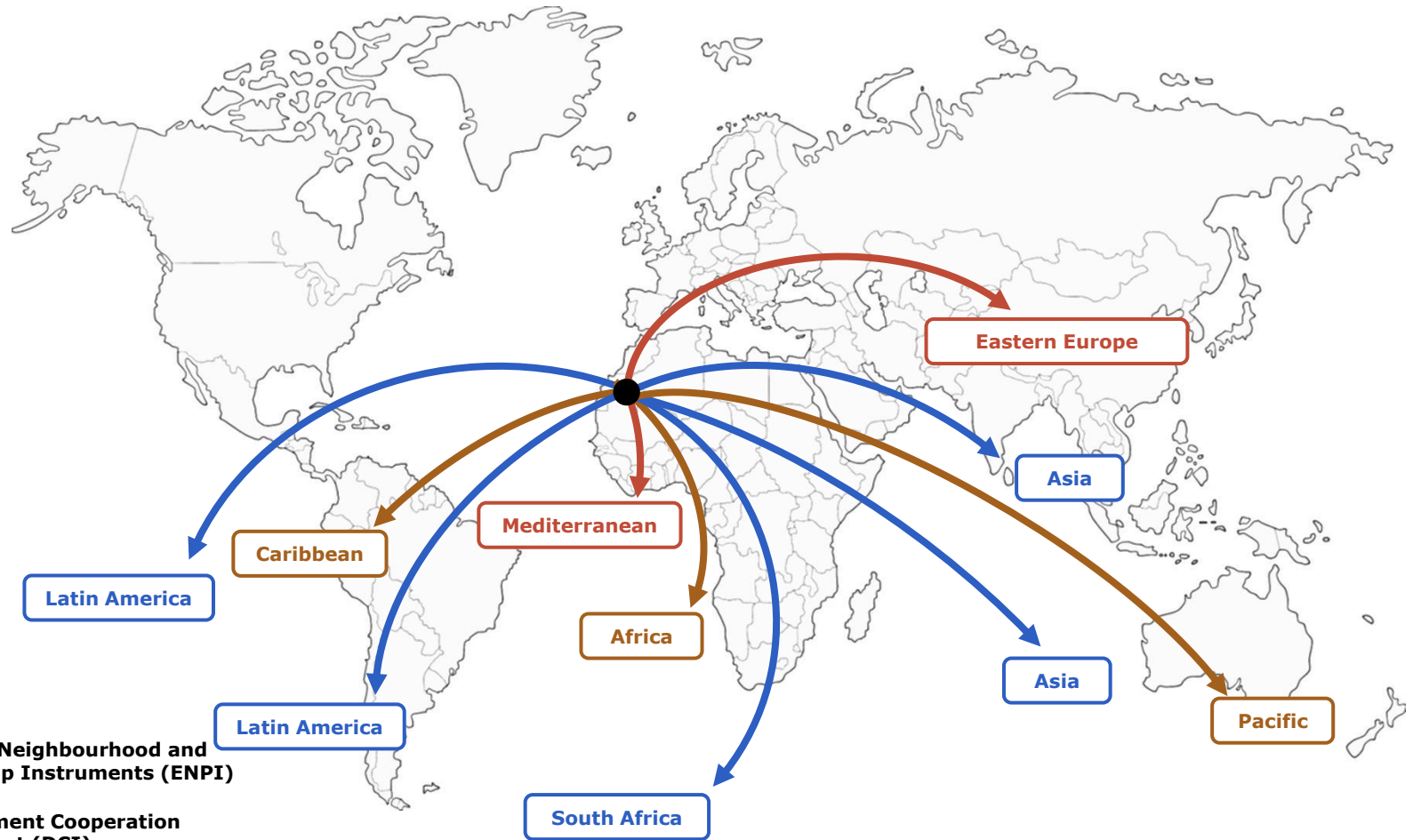
Trade facilitation: need for harmonisation



Safe and fluid trade lanes: efficient control and facilitation



EU support: Geographical coverage



● European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instruments (ENPI)

● Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)

● European Development Fund (EDF)



Differentiated development partnerships

Why? Geographical dispersion of EU support; rise of several developing countries as donors; variety of development needs, performance and interests of each country...

Target resources where they are most needed

→ Differentiated approach, allocation to depend on:

Country needs

Capacities

Country commitments and performance

Potential EU impact

Different policy mixes adapted to each country
Specific forms of support in fragile states

Coordinated EU action

Why? Need to coordinate and harmonise donor activities

Joint programming of EU and member states' support

Joint action - delegated cooperation

Common framework for measuring and communicating results

EU strategy based on country's own strategy and synchronised with country's cycle

Single joint programming document, containing a sectoral division of labour

Participation open to non-EU donors committed to the process



Europe region: Challenges

- **Political: security and stability**
- **Economic:**
 - Unequal economic development;
 - Long and difficult reform process;
 - Interests do not always meet;
 - Weak tax systems.
- **Customs:**
 - Focus on revenue collection: control vs. facilitation;
 - Different procedures and practices;
 - Illegal trade (excisable goods);
 - Corruption;
 - Transit; TIR;
 - Infrastructure, equipment.

Central Asia

Multi-annual regional programmes on border management:

BOMCA: 'Border Management Programme in Central Asia'

supports the modernisation and reform of border management in Central Asia;

CADAP: 'Central Asia Drug Action Programme'

Assists Central Asian countries in their policies and measures aimed at reducing the demand for illegal drugs substances.

+ Support/assistance from Member States, TAXUD

Eastern Neighbourhood countries and Russia

■ Priorities:

- Safe and fluid trade lanes
- Risk management and fight against fraud
- Customs modernization (IBM, transit, infrastructure, etc.)

Eastern Neighbourhood countries and Russia: Action

- **Cooperation;**
- **Ensuring close convergence of customs legislation and procedures;**
- **Promoting international standards, best practices;**
- **Transit;**
- **Authorised Economic Operators;**
- **PEM Convention;**
- **Technical assistance, training;**
- **European Neighbourhood Instrument.**

Western Balkans

- **Primary long term objective: EU accession**
- **Legal tools:**
 - **Stabilisation and Association Agreements**
 - **EU-Turkey Customs Union**
- **Financial tools:**
 - **Instrument for Pre-Accession**
 - **TAIEX**
 - **CUSTOMS 2020**

Western Balkans: practical examples

IPA funded:

- Technical assistance and IT equipment for accession to Common Transit Convention and to the Convention on the simplification of formalities in trade in goods
- Trade facilitation assistance programmes through the Central European Free Trade Association and the International Financial Corporation
- Systematic Electronic Exchange of Data (SEED)
- Investments in infrastructural development of border crossing points

TAIEX: workshops, assistance

TAXUD: technical assistance to tax and customs administrations: legislative alignment, IT interconnectivity, administrative capacity

Revised Customs Blueprints

A Gateway to Better Customs

» **To** improve is to **change**;
to be perfect. «
is to change often.



THANK YOU!

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