

Measurement of the Business Environment for Customs

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Aim of the document

- part of a global reflection on what determines the performance of Customs administrations
- particularly the impact of business sector « performance » on Customs « performance »

Customs « performance » is measured by the private sector

World Bank	Doing Business (specific « Trading across borders » index) Logistic Performance Index Entreprise Surveys World Trade Indicators World Governance Indicators CATT (Customs Assessment Trade Toolkit)
UNCTAD (United Nations Conference for Trade And Development)	Liner shipping connectivity index Transshipment connectivity index Trade Indicators Trade Structure Indicators Trade Trends
OECD	Trade Facilitation Indicators
World Economic Forum	Enabling Trade Index
WTO-OECD	Value Added Initiative
ITC (UNCTAD & WTO)	ITC Trade Performance Index
IMD	World Competitiveness Yearbook
IMF	RA-FIT Revenue Administration – Fiscal Information Tool (exclusively governmental comparisons)
Various indexes/data that are used for indicators related to benchmarking	UN COMTRADE (all trade flows by countries reported) UNCTAD Container Port Throughput Transparency International International Telecommunication Union

Customs « performance » is measured by the private sector

2 points in common:

- mainly rely on private sector data and perceptions
- lead to rankings

Consequences:

- political impact (country's image, relationship between government and Customs authorities)
- economic impact (potential impact on decisions taken by the multinational companies)
- methodological issue: criteria of performance cannot be local but « internationally consensual » (i.e. usually related to interests that are common to multinational companies)

Can Customs « measure » the business sector?

- Why?
 - to take into account the private sector contribution to collective objectives (trade, development, wealth...)
 - to reduce information asymmetry and organize the dialogue between stakeholders to improve the border crossing and the Customs controls
 - to put Customs performances into a local perspective (specificity of institutional objectives at the national level, differences of economic structures among countries,...).
- => To help Customs to develop and strengthen their own narrative on Customs reform and efficiency, underpinning their case with figure based statements

Can Customs « measure » the business sector?

- How?
 - indicators to describe the business structure (diversity, concentration of markets for activities related to import/export, ...), its capacity (celerity, ...) and its degree of compliance.
 - using the Customs IT systems (data mining) - already developed with some Members.
 - a core principle: indicators as descriptive as possible and not measuring a gap between reality and “norms”.