

Brussels, 28 August 2025
(OR. en)

11810/25

LIMITE

ENFOCUSTOM 120

ENFOPOL 299

CRIMORG 153

JAI 1109

CEPOL

EPPO

EUROPOL

FRONTEX

NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	National capacity building; adopting new technologies

1. **AIM**

The Presidency wishes to discuss and share experiences of national capacity building through adopting new technologies as a way of ensuring resilient customs controls in a changing world.

2. **BACKGROUND**

A defining feature of this changing world is the rapid pace of technological advancement. Emerging technologies – particularly artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and computer vision – are transforming the way both customs and criminal networks operate.

As highlighted in the EU SOCTA 2025, criminal actors are increasingly exploiting new technologies to build their operations, conceal illicit flows and evade detection. In addition, the surge in global e-commerce has led to a dramatic rise in the number of parcels and containers entering the EU, placing significant strain on manual control methods. Given the importance of leveraging technology to strengthen the EU's resilience and internal security – as highlighted in the Internal Security Strategy – this evolving threat landscape requires customs authorities to stay ahead by integrating advanced technological solutions into their customs controls.

By adopting new technologies, EU Member States can significantly strengthen the capacity of their customs controls. This includes automating inspections, enhancing detection capabilities, improving risk analysis and enabling real-time data sharing, ultimately leading to faster and more accurate detection of contraband, hazardous materials and other forms of illicit goods. By enabling the reallocation of staff from manual tasks to those requiring more sophisticated, intelligence-driven approaches, new technologies can significantly enhance operational efficiency. In short, these tools strengthen the capacity of customs authorities to anticipate, detect and respond effectively to customs-related security threats.

However, the adoption of new technologies also presents challenges, such as high implementation costs, the need for specialised training and concerns about data protection issues and the ethical use of AI in general. When deploying AI, limitations and consequences need to be considered in advance and precautions may need to be taken. The Presidency finds that addressing these challenges and potential concerns requires coordinated efforts, knowledge sharing and investment in both infrastructure and human capital.

3. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

To gather the views of the EU Customs community, the Presidency invites delegations to answer the following questions at the meeting on 3 September – and preferably also in writing afterwards:

- Which emerging technologies for customs controls has your national customs authority adopted or are you planning to adopt in the coming years?
- What do you see as the main challenges or – if relevant, the main potential concerns – related to the adoption of new technologies in your customs controls?

- Do you have any lessons learned or good practices from your experiences with adopting new technologies that you would like to share?

4. **WAYS FORWARD**

Building on the discussions and the inputs presented at the LEWP-C meeting on 3 September, delegations are invited to send their written answers to the questions above to the Presidency (Annika.Tranekjer@toldst.dk, marfar@um.dk, and dkpres.lewpc@skm.dk) and to the Council Secretariat (lewpcustoms@consilium.europa.eu) by 26 September 2025, COB.

The Presidency intends to prepare a document summarising the inputs from the Member States, which will serve as a handbook, with examples and an overview of best practices for how to work on strengthening the resilience of customs controls in general – and more specifically by using national, regional and international capacity building in a broader sense.

The document will be based both on the inputs from the discussions at the LEWP-C meeting on 3 September and on subsequent written contributions on *national capacity building (the training and education of customs officials, ST 11946/25, and adopting new technologies, ST 11810/25)* and on *support for capacity building for customs authorities of non-EU countries (ST 11947/25)* and also on the discussions at the LEWP-C meeting on 11 July and subsequent written contributions on *regional cooperation on customs controls (ST 11043/25)*.