

## Jean-Philippe Lacroix

Chairman of Customs Working Group, BusinessEurope

### Details



Panellist for "The European dimension - EU Customs goes paperless on a tight timeline"

At present Mr Lacroix is global Director of Customs for the PSA Peugeot Citroen group and is responsible for all the groups' customs issues in France and abroad. He is also currently Chairman of the Customs committee of MEDEF and was appointed, in November 2006, Chairman of the customs legislation for BusinessEurope. He is the representative of European industry to customs issues in the Transatlantic Dialogue and dialogue between Mercosur and the European Union.

He is an expert at the European Commission and CNUCED. Until May 2006 he was head of customs and tax representation of GEFCO SA, the transport subsidiary of PSA Peugeot Citroen. In this position, he was responsible for customs and tax representation. Jean Philippe Lacroix is a former Inspector General of the Directorate of French Customs. From 1974-1988 he represented the French administration in different working groups at the European Commission.

He also chaired the working group of the nomenclature of the Harmonized System of the Customs Cooperation Council (WCO). He is vice president of the association Collin de Sussy and FIT, is a lecturer at the University of Maine and Euromed Marseille and is Knight of the National Order of Merit

### At the Conference

Mr Lacroix started by explaining that Paperless Customs are essential, but that "being electronic is not always simplification". Paperless is not only an IT solution it has to be also an organisation solution. For example in a paper environment there is no need to consolidate information, one can separately provide Certificate of Origin, Customs declaration, and Customs transit, and not be obliged to consolidate.

In order to consolidate companies need first to interconnect between VAT, exports, banking etc and this is "a nightmare". There is also the problem of authorisation; in the future there will be no documents, no signature, no stamps how are we to manage authorisation. How will companies go about the compliance of VAT, Duty payment with no documentation?

The paperless solution must be integrated with the other solutions for Banks, for airports for the supplier and everyone not just Customs because otherwise there will be different systems for all which could become unmanageable. Mr Lacroix thought that Single Window, Self assessment and AEO concepts could be a solution, that BusinessEurope supports the paperless environment but want a more harmonised approach. Mr Lacroix thought that contemporary e-Customs would be extremely difficult for SME's to navigate through and thought that Customs Brokers were important in this respect

Mr Lacroix went on to expand on his expectations for the paperless environment. First is security and that there will be mutual recognition for pre-declaration for Customs presentation between different countries and welcomed the WCO's work to obtain standards in different countries. Secondly is the possibility to use the data flow for export to be an import declaration and that in the future it is hoped that export declarations will be more important than import declarations.

On being asked how ready companies were for summer 2009 Mr Lacroix said that this is a difficult question as it is different in different Member States, the main concern is how to interconnect accounting information with logistics information, for a big company the problem is the "multiplication of the flow" of information, while for SME's it is the data transmission. This is the reason why Mr Lacroix believes that the 2nd phase of the Export Control System should be postponed, as securing third countries before Member States makes little sense. Mr Lacroix would prefer postponement in order for businesses to try to obtain AEO status to decrease the volume of data needed.

### *PowerPoint*

Jean-Philippe Lacroix Presentation available on the front page of the CLECAT website