The border between France and the UK is unique because of the short distance, whether by sea or through the tunnel, that separates the two countries.

**Particularities of the United Kingdom / France border**

1. More than 1,500 km of maritime borders with 8 ports impacted

   80% of the total volume is traded through a 40km interface, divided in major 3 sites:
   - Dunkerque Port
   - Calais Port
   - Calais Tunnel

2. A strategic trade zone for the whole region:
   - **United Kingdom**:
     - 6.4% of UK’s exports are headed towards France
     - Is the 8th supplier of France
     - Is the 5th client of France
   - **France**:
     - 7% of France’s exports are headed towards UK
     - Is the 5th supplier of the UK
     - Is the 3rd client of the UK

**Logistical constraints between France and United Kingdom**

- **2 ways of crossing**:
  - Tunnel: 45 min
  - Ferry: ~2 hours

- **1.6 Million Heavy Trucks / Year**
- **2.6 Million Heavy Trucks / Year**

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Therefore France is facing tough trade flow issues with Brexit, and is developing a solution to create a smart border based on technology and data.

High flow of heavy vehicles and passengers

To maintain a high level of fluidity for crossing the border and to apply the Union customs code, France is developing its own smart border solution based on:

- **Anticipation** of the customs declaration before arriving at the border point
- **Identification** of lorries (plate) and the customs declaration before crossing the channel
- **Automatization** of the customs workflow in order to avoid vehicles stop

Such smart border solution enhances border control based on data, high level of traceability on in-and-out flows and their monitoring for avoiding infrastructure saturation and blockage.
Customs are also adapting their infrastructures and training their staff in order to smoothen absorption of activity peak at the border

- **Densification of our offices network**
  - New offices: Control office open 24/7 for Calais harbor and tunnel
  - Reinforcement of existing offices: new brigades, new competences

- **Exceptional authorization to increase recruitments**
  - 250 people in 2018
  - 350 people in 2019
  - 100 people in 2020.

- **Several levers used in order to staff new and existing offices, with strong focus on the Calais region**
  - Transfer of voluntary staff towards priority offices
  - Extra recruitment waves targeted to these offices
  - Mobilization of mobile units
  - 500 pp. on site October 31st with predominantly surveillance officers

- **Specific training sessions are being organized**
  - Conceived with help of extra-resources hired by Customs training schools
  - Focused on existing procedures for non member states and new processes linked to the smart border solution as well as the specificities of the Brexit
  - Delivered in our Customs training schools for initial training, online for all agents, and locally in order to reach a maximum number of customs officers

- **Review and synchronization of all customs departments and processes**

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Migratory Controls

Customs Controls HMRC

Notification of embarking

Sending in real time for validation

Risk Analysis

Decorrelation of physical flow & IS:
The lorry passes and the declarant has 90min to 2 hours to validate the declaration (manual or automatized validation)

Remote pairing of customs documents and the license plates (Web-app)

Or pairing by scan at a terminal and identification of:
- SPS and veterinary*
- Empty lorries
- No Declaration

Flow and parking lot supervision software

Customs

Declarants

SPS

Other

Importation

Transit

Embarking:
Exit Notification and Clearance of the Export Accompanying Document (EAD)

To be controlled

Flow Separation

Flow Separation

Transit / ECS w/o control

Transit / Good to Release / Empty

Notification of arrival

Migrants Controls

Exportation / Transit
Migratory Controls

1. Remote pairing of customs documents and the license plates (Web-app)
2. Or Pairing by scan at a terminal and identification of:
   - SPS and veterinary
   - Empty lorries
   - No Declaration
3. Migratory Controls
4. Customs Controls HMRC
5. Notification of embarking
6. Declarant

Risk Analysis

Decorrelation of physical flow & IS:
The lorry passes and the declarant has 90 min to 2 hours to validate the declaration (manual or automatized validation)

Sending in real time for validation

Sending the transit crossing boarder notification

Transit / Good to Release / Empty lorries

Transit / w/o SPS Good to Release / Empty

Other

Flow Separation

Notification of arrival

Disembarking

Separation of lanes by road signs

Flow and parking lot supervision software

Importation

Transit

Exportation / Transit

Lorries to be controlled
• Formalities to do
• Declaration not validated
• SPS

Flow to be controlled

Imports

Disembarking:
Exit Notification and Clearance of the Export Accompanying Document (EAD)

UKBF Migratory Controls

Flow separation

Notification of arrival

Provisional customs controls

Transit / ECS without control

Transit / Good to Release / Empty lorries
The Smart Border IS is based on 4 pillars

**THE LOGISTIC ENVELOPE**
The logistics envelop allows to group multiple declarations under a single barcode

**THE PAIRING**
Pairing makes it possible to associate one or more declarations with the number plates of the vehicle

**TRUCK DIRECTION**
The truck direction color code helps to orient the vehicles upon arrival on French territory

**FLOW MANAGEMENT**
The flow management tool makes it possible to manage the flows in real time
Architecture of the smart border IS

- **Ferry companies**
- **Eurotunnel**

**Logistic Envelope**

**Pairing**

**Direction**

**Flow Management**

**Transit**
- NSTI

**Clearance**
- DELTA G
- ECS
The Logistic Envelope

What is the goal?
The logistics envelope allows operators and carriers to consolidate multiple declarations under a single bar code, facilitating and speeding up customs clearance. It is generated via a platform accessible in French and English, both via a computer and a mobile device, and which does not require authentication.

How does it work?
1. The operator or carrier goes to the dedicated page without authentication, either via a computer or via a smartphone.
2. The operator or the carrier groups his different declarations using the barcodes.
3. The operator or the carrier obtains a unique barcode grouping all of his declarations: the logistic envelope.

Advantages
- The logistics envelope saves time when identifying the vehicle at the border point.
- It can be generated and used by both the declarant and the carrier.

Steps
- Generation of the logistic envelope
- Pairing of the declaration
- Direction to the right queue
- Control of incoming and outgoing flows
The pairing

What is the goal?
Pairing aims to associate in a simplified way:
- License plates (front / rear for a truck and rear for an unaccompanied trailer)
- Customs declaration(s), or logistic envelope
- The type of goods transported

Advantages
- Facilitate the identification process of the heavy truck to smooth its passage.

How does it work?
1. The operator anticipates his customs declaration(s) by generating them before his arrival on site
2. The declaration(s) are scanned and associated with the license plate and the contents of the vehicle which is declared on arrival
3. The data is sent to the Brexit SI, then to customs applications for analysis

Steps
- Generation of the logistic envelope
- Pairing of the declaration
- Direction to the right queue
- Control of incoming and outgoing flows
Orientation in a port

What is the goal?

Upon arrival to France, the driver is directed to the right lane according to the status of the customs declarations that he transports and the verbal declarations made in the entrance of the infrastructure in the United Kingdom.

Advantages

Enable the driver to get in the right lane and fluidify the infrastructure exit.

How does it work?

1. During the crossing, the declarant validates his declaration, thus allowing the customs to attribute the corresponding good to remove.
2. During the crossing, the carrier will consult the color that has been assigned: green for an immediate passage, orange for a deferred passage.
3. The carrier follows the indications obtained and goes to the indicated area.

Steps

- Generation of the logistic envelope
- Pairing of the declaration
- Direction to the right queue
- Control of incoming and outgoing flows
Flow management

What is the goal?

To control the incoming and outgoing flows of the territory, the customs has a real-time flow management tool to operate its controls and secure the border point.

Advantages

- Supervise flows to manage the border in real time
- Ensure traceability of flows to manage the border

How does it work?

At each stage of the crossing process, the customs know the number of vehicles arriving on the territory, adapts its workforce according to the controls detected during the crossing and works with the operators to the fluidification of the traffic.

Steps

- Generation of the logistic envelope
- Pairing of the declaration
- Direction to the right queue
- Control of incoming and outgoing flows
An additional adaptation has been included to allow identification of landbridge trucks using T2 transit declarations.

An additional evolution is included in the Brexit IS: it allows to distinguish between transit T1 and T2 and therefore to identify incoming landbridge trucks holding a T2 transit declaration.
An offensive communication strategy has been put in place by French customs toward their partners in order to support this change.

Both information and awareness actions have been entrusted to local structures and training on the fundamentals of customs clearance.

1| Distribution of a document explaining the fundamentals of customs clearance

Relayed by the regional economic clusters (RECs) and business consulting units (BCUs) to answer their Brexit questions (specifically for companies with no experience of customs clearance and trade procedures with third countries).

2| Regional information campaign

On the consequences of separation without agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

Link to the French customs calendar: http://www.douane.gouv.fr/articles/a11063-reunions-information-pour-les-entreprises

3| Several meetings conducted with French business federations

To raise the customs’ awareness on the preparation of the Brexit and the advice to be given to the commercial world.
Supported by a communication toolkit intended for economic operators which aimed to help them in the preparation of the Brexit

**Goal:** Push an operating mode document to economic operators, specifically SMEs, to prepare and anticipate customs procedures as well as possible in order to secure the flow of border points by October 31st 2019

**Main Principles**
- This toolkit was developed to **meet the companies' learning path on the fundamental principles of customs clearance and their implementation**:
  - The introductory, preparatory and technical sheets may inform and make aware of the fundamentals of customs by **asking the questions** necessary to **identify the practical cases** that concern each type of company

  **“Which customs clearance method is best suited to your company’s needs?”**

  **“Are you an EXPORTER or IMPORTER ?”**

  **“For each case:**
  - What are the formalities involved in using the Community transit ?
  - What is the advance declaration procedure?
  - What are the formalities associated with the use of the common transit procedure?”

  **“Check whether your goods are covered by a specific exchange regime”**

  For each case, **step-by-step sheets guide** companies in the operational preparation regarding the steps and formalities for an effective and efficient handling as soon as the Brexit comes into force at the end of October 2019

  This toolkit will be translated in several European languages, which still has to be defined
This communication strategy is enhanced through social networks, the media and a dedicated website.

**DGDDI website**

- Update of the **website pages** on **Brexit**: two new sections for **Professionals** and **Citizens**

  - One **Q&A** section related to:
    - **Economics operators**: questions on import/export of goods with a third country (outside the EU)
    - **Travelers**

  - **Downloading “modus operandi” documents** for professionals to know **how to deal with customs formalities**

  - **Flyers and videos** presenting the smart border and the driver’s course

**Media**

- **Several interviews conducted for journalists**
- **Daily answers to journalist solicitations**
- **Publication of dedicated paper on the customs magazine**

- **2 videos in collaboration with partners to present the innovative solution “smart border” designed by the French customs**
- **2 videos to present the driver’s course within the “smart border”**

**News**

- **Intervention of the Director General of customs and excise on the BFM Business chain on the preparation of French customs for the Brexit**

**Social Media**

- **Frequent communication on twitter**
Cross the Brexit together