



Negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between the European Union and Tunisia

## The EU proposal on Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation for the DCFTA EU-Tunisia

### FACTSHEET

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The present document aims at providing a general overview of the European Union's (EU) proposal for a Chapter on Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation in the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) envisaged between the EU and Tunisia. The text of the EU proposal was presented to Tunisian experts in October 2015 and is now available on the website [link] of the European Commission.

#### Reasons for negotiating provisions on customs procedures and trade facilitation

When a firm in Europe exports its products to Tunisia, customs officers at the Tunisian border check the products to make sure they meet Tunisian rules and requirements.

The same applies to exports from Tunisia to the EU.

Those customs checks:

- Stop harmful or illegal goods from finding their way into shops on both sides;
- Make sure that:
  - Companies pay any customs duties and taxes that are due for their kind of product;
  - Governments get the money they count on for their budgets.

Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) – the majority of the countries in the world, including Tunisia and the European Union – have already agreed to an international agreement on trade facilitation, which:

- establishes the customs procedures that are to be applied to import, export and transit operations;
- contributes to facilitate the exchanges of goods.

We aim to increase the trade relations between Tunisia and the EU by providing new rules which:

- Streamline the customs procedures so as to make them more efficient;
- Save time and money for all companies, which should also be beneficiary to consumers.

#### Main goals

In this part of the DCFTA, we aim to:

- Ensure that companies trading goods between the EU and Tunisia get their goods easier and faster through customs;
- authorise customs officers to carry out all the checks they consider necessary so as to ensure that:
  - Goods coming into the country are safe, in particular in terms of product safety and security, and respect Intellectual Property Rights (for example that they are not counterfeit);
  - Companies pay all customs duties and taxes that are due;
  - In doing so, citizens, legitimate traders and the environment. are duly protected.

To that end, the provisions in the EU proposal include:

- Agreeing on simple and effective rules that are easy to understand and to obey to;
- Ensuring that customs procedures be transparent, for example by making them publicly available online;
- Achieving closer cooperation between EU and Tunisian customs authorities.