

May 2025

REPORT

CBG-CCI meeting 27th May 2025

CLECAT participated in the 27 May meeting of the Customs Business Group (CBG) in Brussels to discuss the management of the authorisation process under the Centralised Clearance for Import (CCI) framework. The meeting gathered representatives from Member States (MSs), DG TAXUD, and the Trade Contact Group (TCG).

As of 3 June 2025, under Article 20 of the UCC-TDA, MSs can no longer reject CCI applications on the grounds of administrative burden. The Commission presented the current deployment status of the CCI system across MSs and reported that 43 CCI authorisations had been granted, 30 of which included the use of EIDR. However, inconsistencies were noted between CDS records and national authorities' figures, and MSs were therefore asked to verify the data.

During a Tour de Table, MSs shared their experiences with CCI applications, providing mixed feedback. While four MSs are actively granting authorisations under transitional arrangements, twelve others reported no or limited interest from economic operators (EOs), some citing persistent systemic and procedural issues. Notably, over 200 companies in the Netherlands expressed interest following a webinar and a survey by the Dutch Customs Authorities. Common challenges and best practices were discussed with some key points clarified by the Commission. These are detailed in the attached meeting material.

EEA representatives confirmed strong strategic interest in CCI, urging progress despite national IT setbacks. They highlighted internal challenges such as managing VAT obligations and limited IT resources. CLECAT reported member feedback indicating that some EU companies are withdrawing their interest in applying for CCI when they find out about the obligation to register for VAT in all the presentation countries.

CLECAT also reiterated that, due to the lack of AEOC status and limited in-house customs IT and professional resources, importers are unlikely to adopt this facilitation directly in large numbers. Customs agents, who are, on the other hand, well positioned to fulfil all prerequisites for operating CCI on behalf of their clients, will not accept the obligation to act as indirect representatives, as they are ultimately not the importers. CLECAT stressed that unless a compromise is found regarding the Commission's position on mandatory indirect representation, CCI will remain underutilised, with further implications for the overall level of European trade facilitation in the context of the future Customs Reform.

The Commission maintained that the current underutilisation is primarily due to the limited availability of the full CCI IT system and the overall novelty of the scheme. It advised CLECAT to devise and promote a standardised industry practice whereby customs agents establish legal contracts to protect their interests when acting under indirect representation.

In conclusion, the Commission reiterated the importance of adhering to the UCC deadline and encouraged MSs to process applications using transitional measures where necessary. An updated version of the CCI Business Guidance and the accompanying presentation is expected to be published by July 2025.