

EN

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSION

1. Council Regulation (EC) No 515/97 of 13 March 1997 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters, which has been applicable since 13 March 1998, has been a vital tool for cooperation between the Member States in the protection of the Community's financial interests and in combating fraud to the detriment of Community policies.
2. But anti-fraud action is an area where it is constantly necessary to improve instruments and to innovate, for otherwise crime will proliferate and the underground economy will flourish. After five years of experience with the existing legal rules, at a time when the Community's external borders have been extended as a result of enlargement, it is felt that a substantial boost to cooperation between the Member States and between them and the Commission should be proposed.
3. The new provisions relate, on the one hand, to the extension of the purposes served by the Customs Information System database so that it can be used in national analysis systems that orientate checks on movements of goods and coordination measures at Community level and, on the other, to the establishment of a customs files identification database, a European central directory on data obtained from the main service providers in the international carriage of goods, by container in particular, and the management of a permanent coordination infrastructure for joint customs surveillance operations whereby OLAF could host representatives or liaison officers from the Member States.
4. The Commission is requested to adopt the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 515/97 by written procedure for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council in accordance with the procedure of Article 251 of the Treaty.

SUMMARY

The objective of this proposal aims to fix the provisions amending Council Regulation (EC) 515/97 with a view to extend the purposes of the Customs Information System (CIS) database to the analysis, to create an Identification Database for Customs Investigation Files (FIDE), to create a service platform, managing in particular a Permanent Technical Infrastructure supporting the joint customs operations and an European Data Pool containing information coming from the main service providers in the sector of transport of goods and in enhancing the coordination of the operational co-operation.

The Commission is requested to adopt the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 515/97 by written procedure for transmission to the European Parliament and the Council in accordance with the procedure of Article 251 of the Treaty.

ANNEX – CALENDAR

Approval by the Commission: Second half of Year 2006

Justification of the calendar: the approval should intervene during the second half of the Year 2006 with a view that the draft Regulation can be examined by the competent Council working group and the competent Committee of the European Parliament during the same period.