

The future Union Customs Code: customs' control and trade facilitation

The European Union (EU) adopted the new Union Customs Code (UCC) in 2013, with a view to modernising, simplifying, and streamlining customs' procedures throughout the EU, which DPDHL can only but support.

We are now at a final stage of the adoption of the whole package, as the UCC Delegate Act (DA) and Implementing Act (IA) were published last December and the UCC Transitional Delegated Act (TDA) was recently sent for approval to the European Parliament.

DPDHL has been actively involved in this process to ensure that a balance is found between customs' control efficiency and trade facilitation. One of our main priorities is the treatment of low value shipments where we aim at preserving current customs' simplified processes. If DPDHL has raised some concerns as regards certain provisions of the UCC DA, we were satisfied with the collaborative approach of the European Commission (EC) when drafting the TDA. This has enabled to come up with a sensible proposal, where most of our current processes are authorised up until May 2020.

- When revising the UCC DA, and based on what has been achieved in the TDA, is the Commission open to solutions that would take into account the need for trade facilitation measures, in particular in the case of low-value shipments for postal and express operators?

Is the free movement of goods in danger?

The free movement of goods is one of the foundations of the EU Internal Market, and one on which the viability of the transport and logistics industry relies upon. The Single Market Act was launched in 2011 to boost competition and foster the mobility of citizens and businesses. DPDHL has been actively contributing to releasing the full potential of the Single Market as an engine for growth.

The EU is today at a turning point in its history with challenges in the fields of immigration and the fight against terrorism, which raises questions on how to handle the transport of goods within its territory. In this context, DPDHL is concerned that overburdened EU regulatory initiatives and fragmented national-driven approaches might hamper the EC's ambition of a deeper Internal Market for growth and jobs.

- How does the EC intend to implement its new Internal Market Strategy in the light of the above?

Digital Single Market – avoid unnecessary regulation and administrative burdens on the parcel delivery sector

Completing the Digital Single Market is one of the top priorities of the European Commission. One of the pillars also includes announced initiatives on price transparency and regulatory oversight in the parcel delivery sector.

- How will the Commission ensure that these initiatives will not lead to an unnecessary burden in a competitive market?