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**NOTE TO THE ATTENTION OF CUSTOMS AND TAXATION ATTACHÉS OF MISSIONS
ACCREDITED TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

Subject: Export Control System

You may be aware that, as a step in the process of full computerisation of customs, the European Community has recently decided to introduce a computerised system for the control of exports known as the Export Control System (ECS)¹.

As a consequence, from 1 July 2009 only electronic customs declarations will be allowed for exports from the EU to third countries, with declarations in paper format disappearing altogether. It should be noted, however, that economic operators may already now recur to the ECS, meaning that paper copies of export declarations are no longer produced in these cases, which are expected to become increasingly common as the deadline of 1 July 2009 approaches.

I would be grateful if you could inform your respective authorities in your capitals of this development, so that the appropriate arrangements can be put in place.

Peter Kovács
Head of Unit

Cc: Customs and Taxation Attachés of EU Member States, Brussels

¹ See Commission Regulation (EC) No 1875/2006 of 18 December 2006 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 laying down provisions for the implementation of Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code, OJ L 360, 19.12.2006, p. 64.