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UNICE position on the single European authorisation procedure (“One-Stop Shop”)

1. UNICE supports an arrangement whereby European companies can choose a single customs office to process all their customs transactions in the European Union. In this approach, within the limits of the Customs Code, all goods which form part of a company’s foreign trade, irrespective of where they enter, leave the Community customs territory, or remain there temporarily, could be governed by the single European authorisation. However, UNICE insists that the following conditions must be met:
 - the system must operate for exports as well as imports;
 - it must be sufficiently flexible to allow the maximum number of businesses to take advantage of it, and be tailored to the situation of companies of all sizes;
 - customs procedures and practices adopted in the system by Member States must be harmonised in such a way as to guarantee correct application of EU customs rules and equality of treatment between economic operators in the different Member States.
2. To help with preparation of this reference framework, the Commission should monitor trials on going and to take place in certain countries without imposing any conditions or limitations whatsoever, other than to require regular reports of progress and of any difficulties which the parties may encounter, particularly those arising from constraints imposed by Community law*.
3. The Commission and other Member States should be kept fully informed of the authorisations granted and of the results observed during the monitoring phase. If, after the trials, the initiative is assessed positively, the Commission should recommend it as a “best practice” and could then consider the possibility of making it a standard procedure.
4. Under the conditions set out above, UNICE strongly believes that this initiative will greatly facilitate trade while giving companies greater certainty in the administrative handling of their international transactions. This initiative should be actively encouraged and supported by governments and customs authorities as it will increase transparency between Member States’ practices, and result in more cost-effective and efficient interaction between customs administrations and companies. The Commission should endeavour to persuade third countries,

* The *Mouvement des Entreprises de France* (MEDEF) is of the opinion that, in order to prevent all customs dumping in the European Union, the Commission should authorise these experiments, after an audit, subjecting their implementation to a number of conditions constituting the specifications imposed on the customs administrations and companies concerned.

notably the United States, to put in place equivalent systems to the benefit of exports by European companies.
