



@customs by EU

Chance and challenge for companies

@customs, an expected change

- Business strongly supports @customs
- Business expects more simple and costless formalities
- Business expects an improvement of the competitiveness of EU companies through the introduction of a paperless environment



@customs, an expected change

Companies are facing different challenges:

- Paperless procedures are fashionable, but:
 - not only an IT issue
 - also an organisational issue
- Paperless procedures should:
 - simplify company organisation and reduce costs
 - increase the competitiveness of the EU



@customs, from company perspectives

- Lack of harmonisation:
 - Different customs IT solution in each member state
 - Need to develop and design one common interface
- Diverging company approaches:
 - Multinationals and globally operating companies ready to follow
 - SMEs and less international-oriented companies face problems
- Criticism towards a paperless solution:
 - Paper procedures are a cost factor but there is no need to consolidate information
 - Functioning paperless solution will require that all documents are transformed in electronic format
 - How long will be the transitional period?



@customs, an expected change

- EU and international regulations force companies to enter in a paperless environment:
 - ECS and ICS on customs presentation
 - Modernized Community Customs Code sets paper procedures as exception and electronic messages as standard
 - WCO international rules introduce paperless environment (UCR and SAFE programs)
 - Some countries have implemented a paperless solution (Korea, Singapore, China)

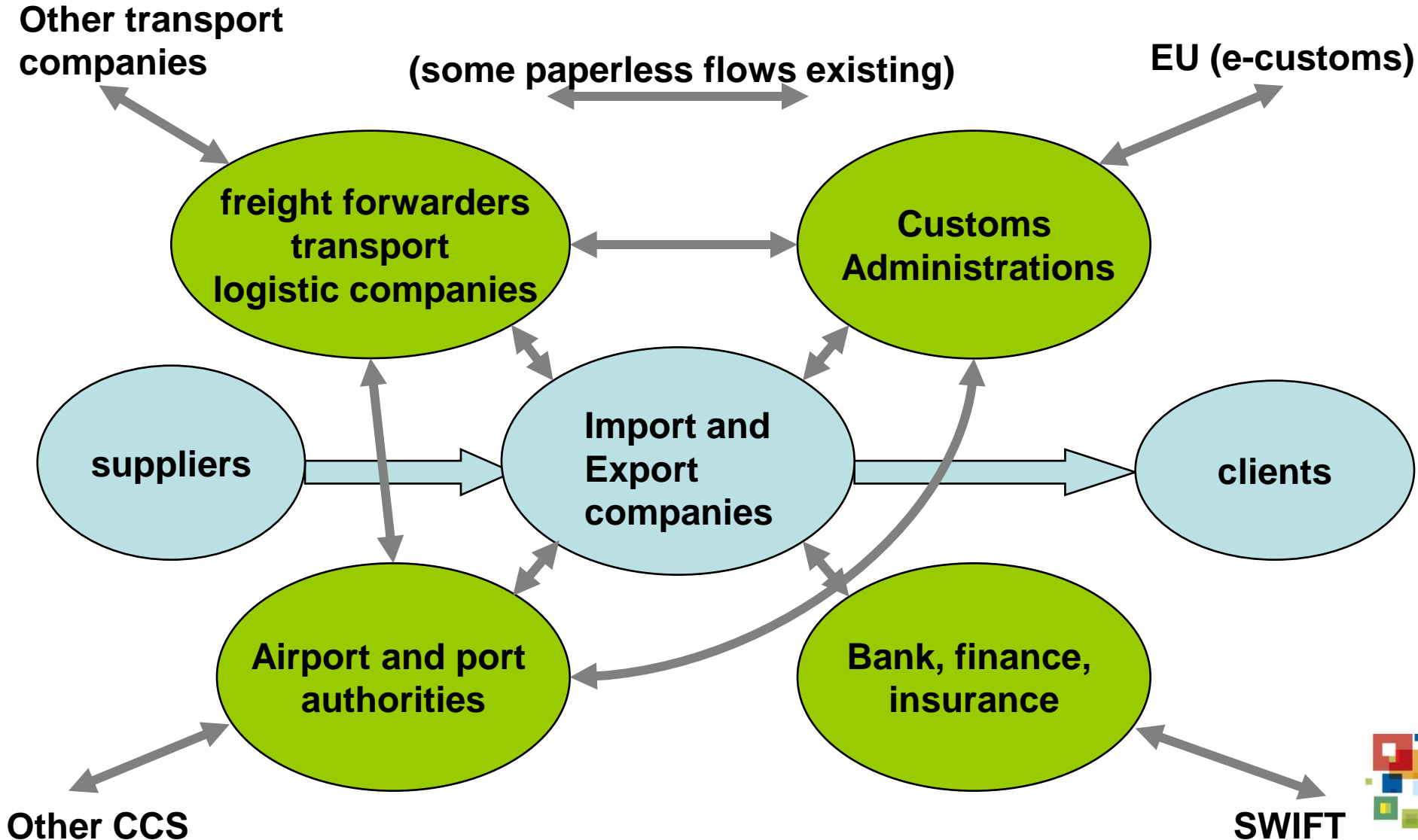


@customs, an expected change but....

- Paperless environment introduces new obligations for companies:
 - Interconnect accounting and logistic systems for issuing customs message
 - In case of Tax Administration audit, obligation to prove import and export operations without any document, stamp or signature
 - Keep paper or digital documents from 3 up to 10 years
 - Manage compliance with duties, VAT and guarantee payment also in absence of internal documentation



@ customs part of company challenges



@ customs part of company challenges

- Interoperability of different IT systems?
- Double information required?
- Existence of single window?



@customs, an expected change

Conclusion:

- **BUSINESSEUROPE** strongly supports a paperless environment but expects a more harmonized approach
- Self assessment and AEO could be solutions to reduce costs of custom requirements

