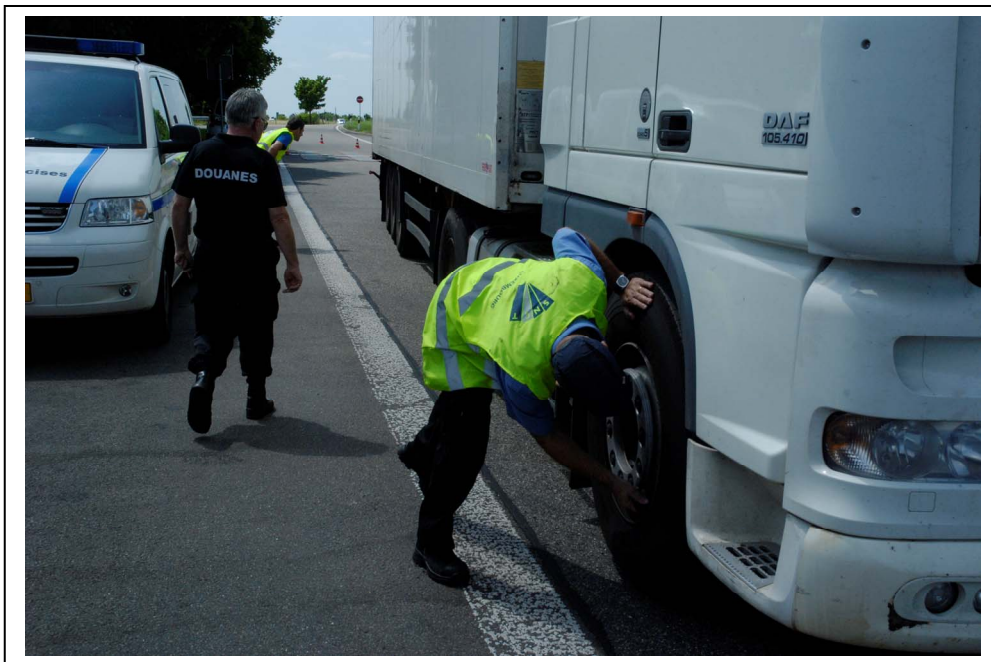


EU Customs Union

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Facts and figures

What the EU Customs Union does in a minute



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EU Customs Union – unique in the world

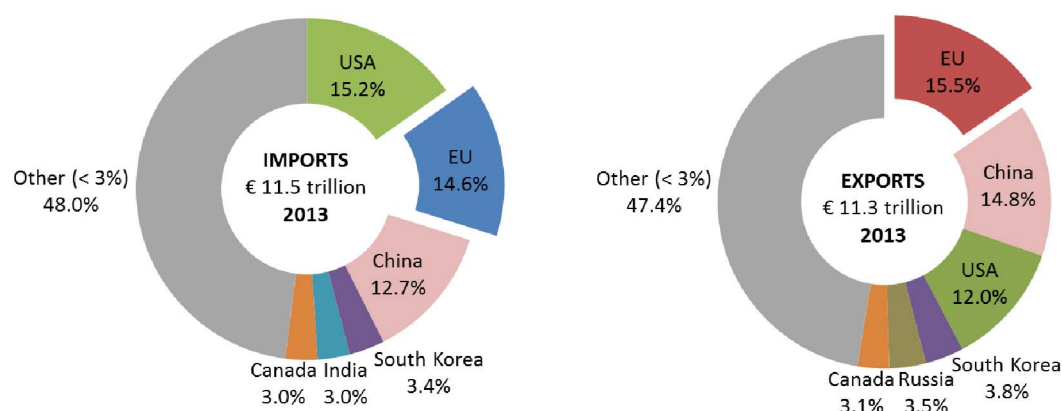
The EU Customs Union is a unique example of an area where a number of countries apply a uniform system for handling goods (imported, exported and transiting) and implement a common set of rules (the Union Customs Code).

The EU Customs Union is managed on the ground by [28 national customs services acting as if they were one](#). The European Commission proposes EU customs legislation and monitors its implementation.

There are **no customs duties** at the EU Customs Union's internal borders. All goods circulate freely within the EU Customs Union, whether they are made in the EU or imported from outside.

The EU is one of the largest traders in the world

In 2013 the value of the entire world trade amounted to € 22.8 trillion¹. The EU is one of the main players in the global arena, concerning trade and supply chain logistics, alongside the United States and China, having a share of 15% in the world total.



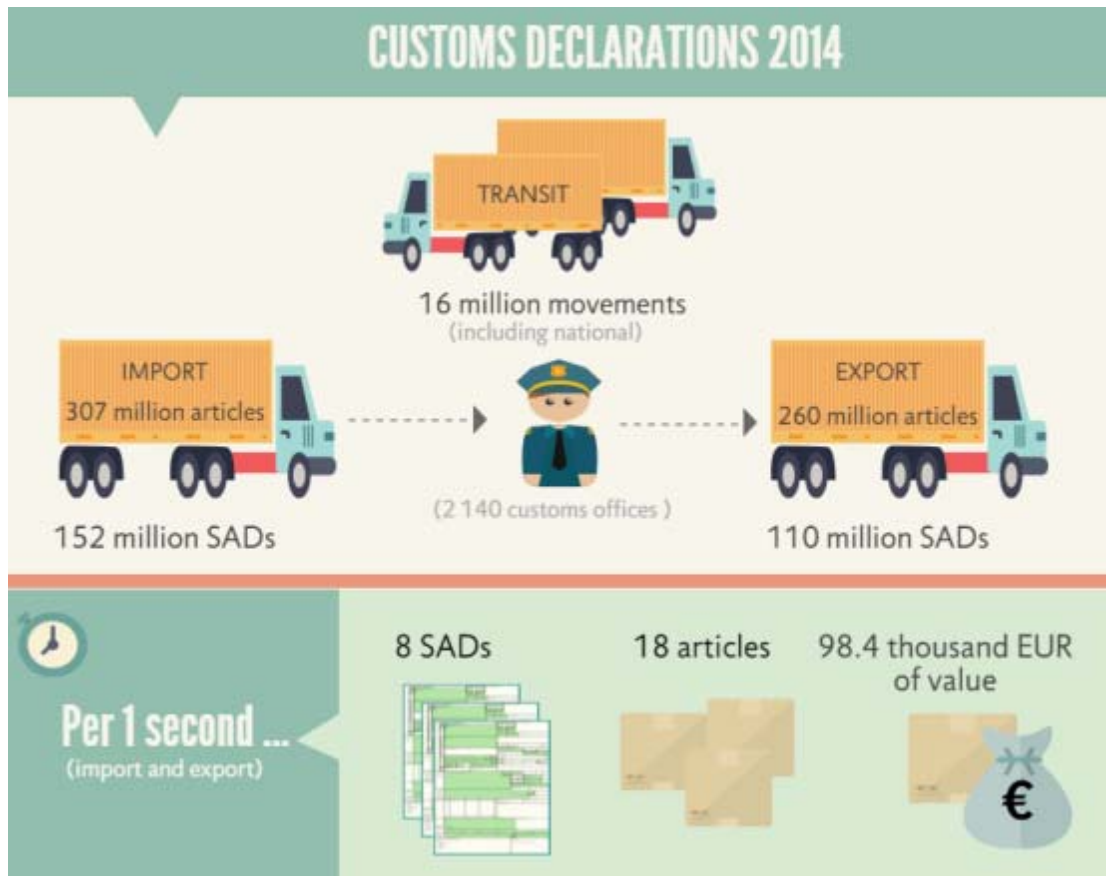
Source: Eurostat

In 2014 the value of EU trade with other countries amounted to € 3.4 trillion (€ 1.68 trillion for imports and € 1.70 trillion for exports). This is more than the total yearly retail sales in the EU!

The main EU trade partners were China, United States, Switzerland and Russia.

¹ trillion = 1 x 10¹²

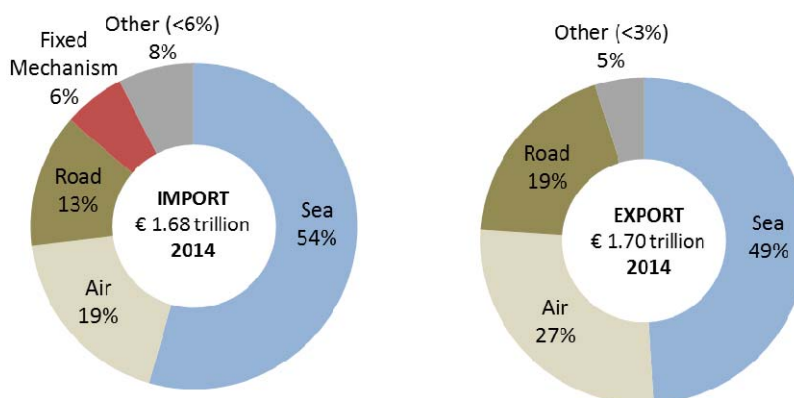
During 2014, almost **278 million customs declarations** were handled by more than 2 000 EU customs offices working 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.



Source: Eurostat and DG Taxation and Customs Union

Various means of carrying freight are used in EU trade

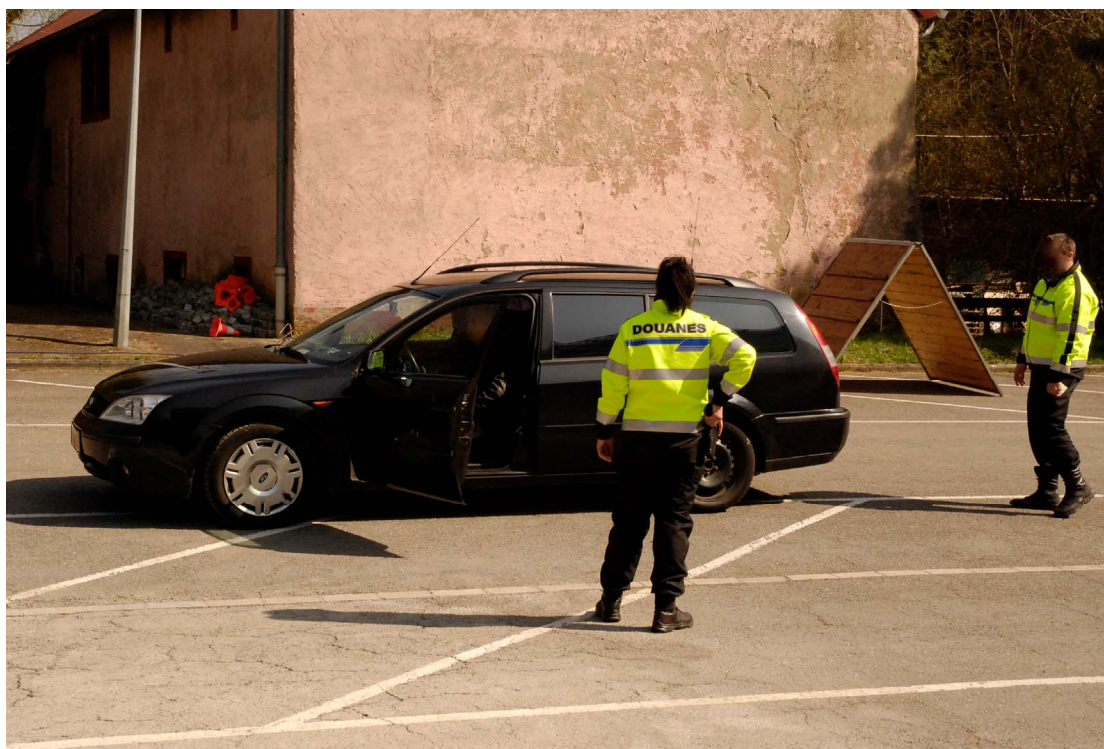
The most frequently used form of transport in EU trade is maritime followed by air and road transport. These figures are based on value in 2014.



Source: Eurostat

Customs see what you don't...and protect you

More than 119 000 officials are working for Customs in the EU 24 hours a day and 365 days a year carrying out varied roles.



Their objective is to protect society against international trafficking and smuggling, protect consumers against goods presenting a risk for their safety or their health and protect the financial interests of the EU

Customs are in charge of ...

(figures for year 2014; source: DG Taxation and Customs Union and DG Budget)

Protecting society against the international trafficking of drugs and helping to dismantle criminal organizations that engage in such trades and earn illicit profits:

- 454.2 tonnes of drugs seized in the EU (increase by 10% compared to 2013)

Protecting society against tobacco and cigarettes smuggling to stop prohibited products from entering the EU market:

- 3.2 billion of cigarettes seized in the EU

Protecting society against international trafficking of firearms, helping to dismantle criminal organizations and to combat terrorism:

- Almost 4 000 weapons and 1 million items of ammunition seized in the EU

Tackling [counterfeit goods and piracy](#) in the interests of health and safety, as well as the jobs of those who work for legitimate manufacturers:

- Almost 95 000 detention cases registered by Customs in 2014 (case =

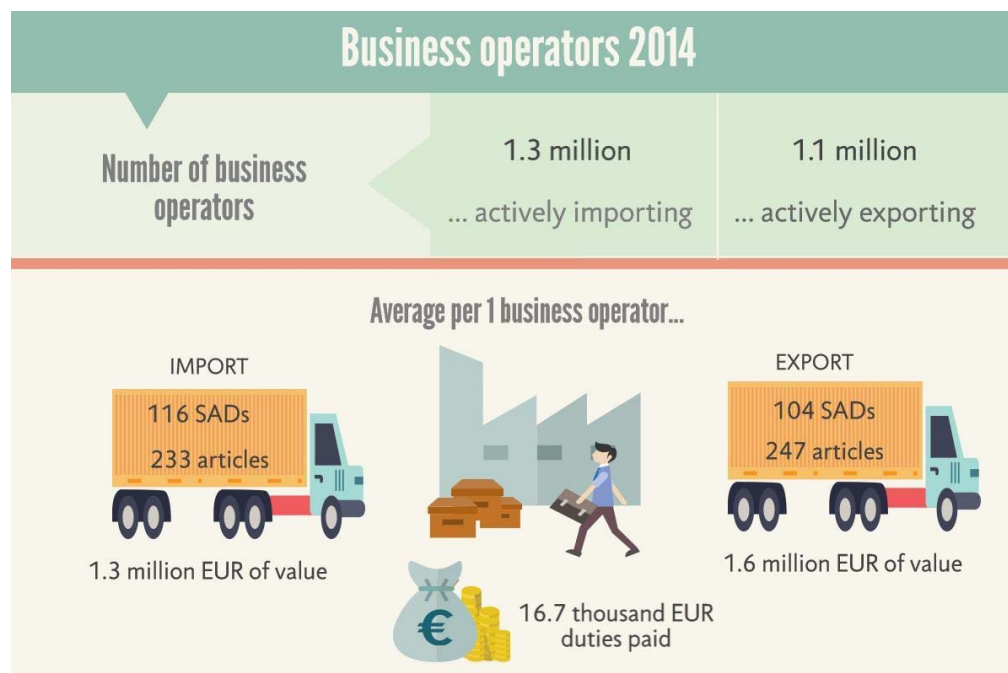
<p>interception by Customs of products suspected of violating intellectual property rights)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 35 million articles detained in 2014 with an estimated value of nearly € 617 million
<p>Enforcing rules that protect the environment and our health and safety (e.g. stopping illegal import of protected wood, refusing entry of contaminated foodstuffs or potentially dangerous electrical appliances)</p>
<p>Protecting endangered species, e.g. checking for illegal trade in ivory, protected animals, birds and plants and protecting European cultural heritage by checking for smuggled art treasures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 4 000 infringements of CITES regulations • 118 infringements of rules on exports of cultural goods
<p>Fighting against money laundering and the financing of terrorism by controlling cash flows in the EU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost 11 000 cases of non-declared cash or incorrectly completed cash declarations amounting to € 415 million • More than 119 000 cash declarations submitted to Customs amounting to € 62 billion
<p>Protecting the financial interests of the European Union by ensuring correct and efficient collection of duties, detection, investigation into and prosecution of fraud:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • € 950 million in unpaid duties² detected
<p>Ensuring exports of sensitive technology (which could be used to make nuclear or chemical weapons) are legitimate</p>
<p>Helping police and immigration services fight the trafficking of people, drugs, pornography and firearms – all factors of organized crime and terrorism</p>

² Covering only duties that exceed € 10 000

Customs are business friendly

Business operators

4.3 million business operators are registered in the customs Economic Operators Identification and Registration system (EORI) and carry out commercial activities related to importing and exporting goods in the role of consignee, declarant or representative.



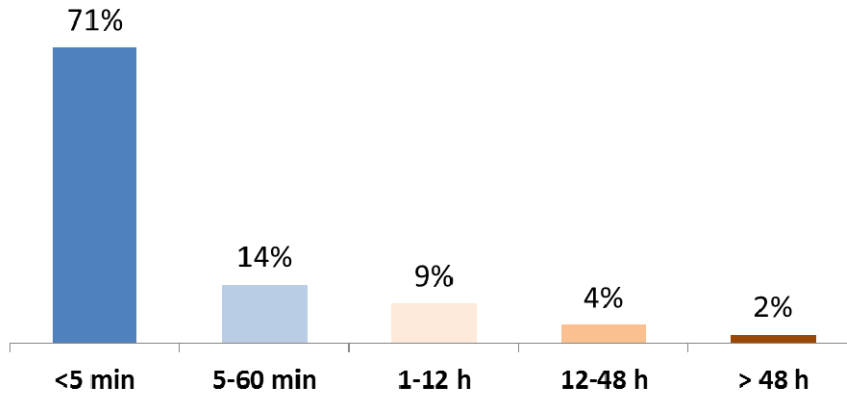
Source: Eurostat and DG Taxation and Customs Union

Almost 13 000 customs warehouses carried out commercial activities in the EU during 2014.

Paperless environment

Nearly all customs declarations for both import and export are submitted to customs electronically.

- The global EU level of electronic input is more than 98%.
- 84% of import customs declarations are cleared within 1 hour with 71% being cleared in less than 5 minutes.



Source: DG Taxation and Customs Union

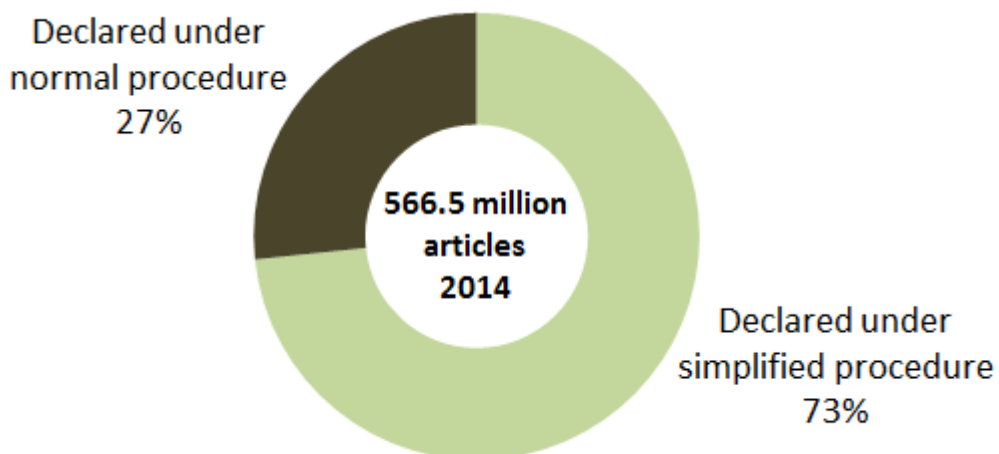
Simplifications

Simplified procedures enable business operators to perform customs procedures more efficiently (faster, less costs, etc.).

At the end of 2014 there were:

- Almost 38 000 valid authorisations for the use of simplified procedures at import and export
- More than 20 000 authorisations for transit
- Almost 676 single authorisations for all economic customs regimes

Most imports and exports are carried out using simplified procedures.



Source: DG Taxation and Customs Union

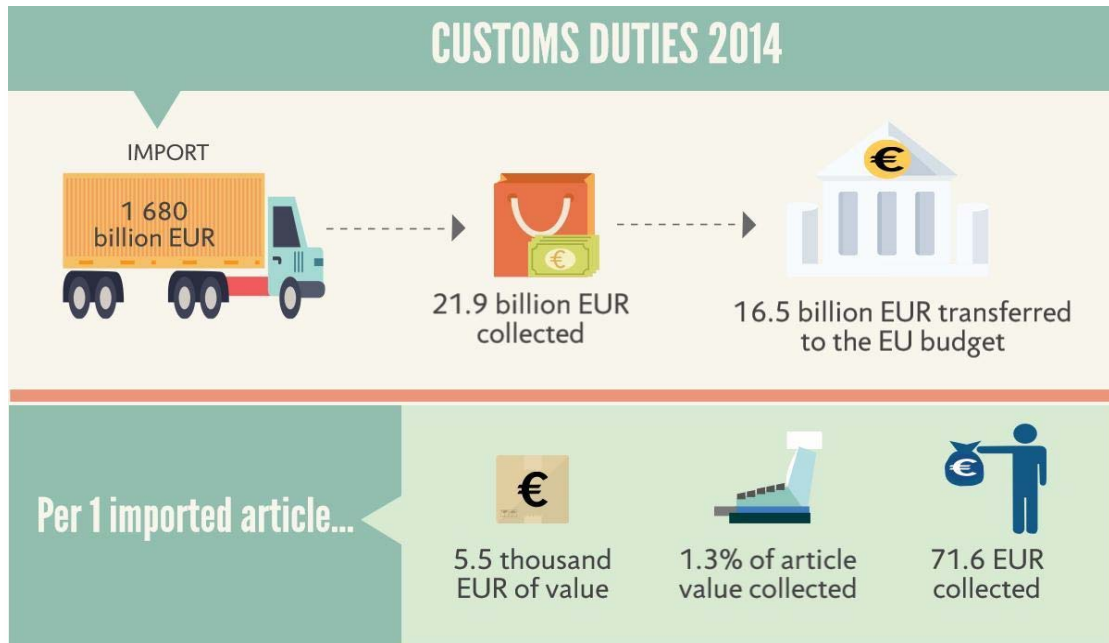
Authorised Economic Operators (AEO)

The [AEO status](#) can be granted to economic operators who meet criteria specified in customs legislation, such as customs compliance, appropriate record-keeping, financial solvency and, where relevant, appropriate security and safety standards.

- The number of valid AEO certificates in EU Member States was almost 14 000 at the end of 2014.
- The operators with the AEO status were involved in 54% of all imports and 68% of all exports and in 54% of transits.

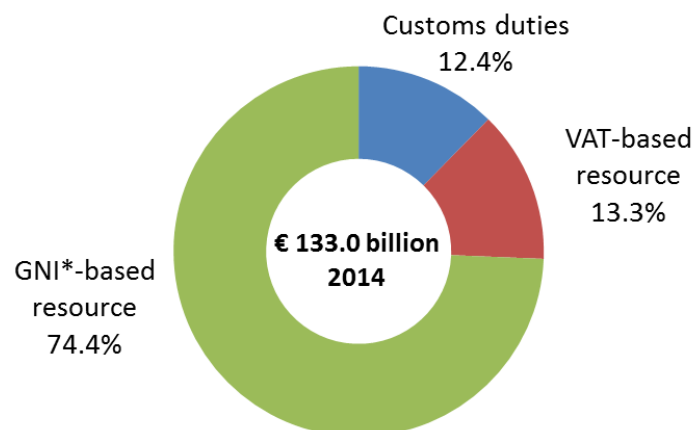
Customs duties mean revenue

Customs duties are one of the sources of public finances for the EU and its Member States.



Source: Eurostat and DG Taxation and Customs Union

The chart below shows the structure of the own resources of the EU budget as well as the share of customs duties in the total for 2014.



* GNI- Gross National Income

Source: DG Budget

Customs co-operation

Administrative assistance

Customs cooperation enables in exchanging information among Customs to ensure correct application of the customs legislation and customs rules as well as creating a level playing field for business.

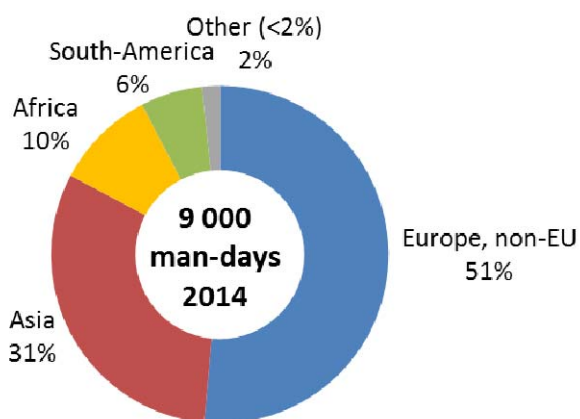
- During 2014, almost 2 000 requests for administrative assistance were sent within the EU.
- More than 3 000 requests were sent to non-EU countries and more than 5 000 requests were received from non-EU countries.

There is an upward trend linked to cooperation in the form of administrative assistance between individual customs administrations, especially between EU and non-EU customs.

Technical assistance

The mutual exchange of knowledge and experience with non-EU customs administrations helps to increase their quality of service.

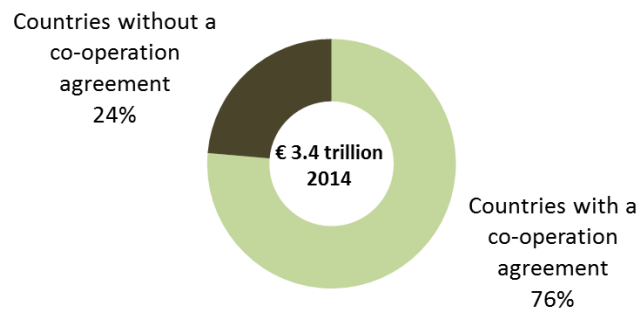
During 2014, the number of man-days spent on technical assistance to non EU-countries was almost 9 000. The technical assistance covered training, capacity building, sniffer dogs training, etc.



Source: DG Taxation and Customs Union

International cooperation and trade

The EU trade volume with non-EU countries with which the EU has a binding agreement on customs cooperation represents an overwhelming proportion of EU external trade. See the details below.



Source: Eurostat

28 EU Member States – links to national customs websites

Map of EU with links to national website (R3 to help on this please)