

2018 - 2020



**STRATEGY
OF
THE NATIONAL CUSTOMS AGENCY**

I. MISSION

The completion of the internal market, the reduction of barriers to international trade and investments, and the reinforced need to ensure security and safety at the external borders of the Union have transformed the role of customs authorities, giving them a leading role within the supply chain and making them a catalyst to the competitiveness of countries and companies in the process of monitoring and management of international trade. Customs have gained paramount importance for the protection of the financial interests of the EU and of the Member States and protection from unfair and illegal trade.

II. VISION

In order to meet the need of a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by strengthening the functioning of the internal market, the Bulgarian Customs Administration has the ambitious task to ensure more efficient and modernized customs authorities, strengthening the competitiveness of businesses, rationalization and coordination of the actions of the public authorities to protect the financial and economic interests of the country and of the Union, so that businesses and citizens can benefit from the full potential of the internal market and of global trade.

III. OBJECTIVES

In a situation of rapidly changing technologies and business models, increase in the volume of global trade, sustainable forms of international crime and security threat, EU enlargement and deepening of the relations within it, as well as the increasing number of tasks which must be carried out by customs, the Bulgarian Customs Administration will work, both for achieving the overall strategic objectives of the Customs Union, namely: 1) EU protection; and 2) support of EU competitiveness; and successful implementation of priorities, set in the Management Programme of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the 2017 – 2021 period. In order to implement these strategic objectives, in close cooperation with the rest of the customs administrations, with other law-enforcement authorities and with economic operators, for the 2018-2020 period the National Customs Agency has set the following priority objectives:

1. Efficient and successful Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council in 2018:

- continuity and progress in the work on the dossiers and topics that are important to the customs activity;

2. Increasing the revenue collection in the state budget by efficient prevention and fight against customs, currency and excise offences:

- implementation of efficient measures for counteraction of illegitimate practices of customs authorities' competence;
- preventing of opportunities for evasion and non-payment of taxes and fees by improving of legislation, strengthening of the inter-institutional cooperation and coordination, and efficient information exchange;
- improving the efficiency upon counteraction of illegal activities, supported by internet, and creation of a coordinated approach to the control on e-commerce;
- extension and modernization of the technical facilities for detection and research of goods and cargo;

3. Ensuring the growth and competitiveness of the national and European economy:

- protection of the Bulgarian producers from unfair trade practices, related to import of goods at lower values into Bulgaria and the EU;

- improvement of the administrative services for businesses and citizens, providing of transparency of the administration and communication with the public, the non-governmental sector and the businesses;
 - prevention, detection and, within the Member States, investigation of and counteraction to the frauds and offences to the customs and excise legislation;
 - ensuring the supply chain integrity for the international movement of goods and protection of the security and safety of the Union and its citizens;
 - integrity in the activity of the administration, prevention of corrupt practices;
 - creation of favourable conditions for development and facilitation of legitimate trade, promotion of competitiveness in the EU;
 - enhancing the efficiency of risk management for the purposes of the fight against the terrorist and criminal activity, including against the unauthorized movement of goods subject to prohibitions and restrictions;
 - implementation of modern methods for risk assessment and analysis in view of efficient counteraction to offences with excisable goods;
- 4. Protection of the citizens and the EU financial interests and its Member States:**
- implementation of efficient measures at the movement of goods subject to prohibitions and restrictions, based on the considerations for protection of public morality, public order or public security; protection of human and animal health; plant protection; protection of environment; protection of national treasures, having artistic, historical or archaeological value; and the protection of the industrial or trade property, including control on the precursors for production of drugs, of goods, infringing Intellectual Property Rights and cash, as well as the implementation of measures for conservation and management of fishery resources and of trade policy measures;
- 5. Ensuring the full functioning of the e-governance:**
- improvement of existing e-services and inclusion of new e-services for enhancing the efficiency of the administrative services;
 - improvement of data exchange by enhancement of intradepartmental administrative e-services used by the National Customs Agency;
 - improvement of the network and information security;
 - re-engineering of workflows aimed at broader use of intradepartmental administrative e-services;
- 6. Maintenance, development and strengthening the cooperation with the customs authorities of the EU Member States and third countries, with the other law-enforcement authorities, with the economic operators and the public:**
- cooperation with the customs administrations of the EU Member States and coordinated actions for protection of the financial interests of the Union, including cooperation with the competent authorities in the area of excise duties;
 - cooperation with third countries for mutual administrative assistance in customs matters;
 - cooperation with other law-enforcement authorities;
 - improvement of cooperation mechanisms with economic operators, trade sector and NGOs;
 - administrative cooperation in respect to origin of goods with the customs authorities of the countries - partners to the EU Free Trade Agreements or with the competent authorities of countries, benefiting from unilateral tariff preferences, provided by the EU, on imports;
- 7. Providing of training, meeting the European standards, in the context of the Strategic Customs Profession Competency Framework;**
- implementation of the Common EU Approach on Training in the Customs Area;
 - implementation of the Annual Programme for Training of the Specialised Administration Officers of the National Customs Agency