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Dear readers!

Here is the new issue of the Information Bulletin "Trade Facilitation in Ukraine Monitoring," a product of the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting.

We strive to provide you with the latest and most up-to-date information on the state of customs reform implementation and the implementation of measures to facilitate international trade in Ukraine. Therefore, send your opinion, feedback, and wishes regarding communication links and methods of providing information to: customs@ier.kyiv.ua

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Pilot Project on the Implementation of EU Acquis Related to Preventing Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 646 of 20 May 2026 "On the Implementation of a Pilot Project for the Introduction of European Union Acquis Related to Preventing Deforestation and Forest Degradation Concerning Information on Agricultural Products Exported Under the Customs Export Regime"

The Resolution launches a two-year pilot project aimed at implementing European Union requirements on preventing deforestation and forest degradation in Ukraine under the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). The project seeks to establish a mechanism for verifying the origin of certain agricultural products exported to EU Member States and ensuring their compliance with European environmental standards.

The pilot project provides for the electronic collection, processing, and verification of information concerning land plots used for agricultural production through the State Agrarian Register information and communication system and its geospatial subsystem. Producers participating in the project will be required to submit information on the origin of products and the cadastral numbers of land plots for due diligence purposes.

The primary objective is to confirm that products have been cultivated on land that has not been subject to deforestation or forest degradation after 31 December 2020.

The project coordinator is the Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine, which will also cooperate with the competent authorities of EU Member States in verifying the relevant information.

The results of the pilot project are expected to serve as a basis for further improvement of Ukrainian legislation and for adapting the national regulatory framework to EU requirements in the field of sustainable production and trade in agricultural products.

Source: https://surl.li/zgwbxk

State Customs Service Launches Certification of Customs Officials

Order of the State Customs Service of Ukraine No. 2400 of 14 May 2026 "On the Launch of the One-Time Certification Procedure for Customs Officials"

The State Customs Service of Ukraine has launched the certification process for customs officials — a mandatory one-time comprehensive assessment procedure for each employee aimed at determining compliance with the requirements of their position and with European-style anti-corruption



standards within the broader customs reform process.

The process officially commenced with the issuance of Order No. 2400 of 14 May 2026.

Certification commissions are to be established by 13 July 2026. To ensure transparency and objectivity, representatives of international organizations will participate in the commissions, helping to guarantee European standards of assessment.

The practical implementation of the certification process is expected to begin in September 2026 and will include the following stages:

- testing of knowledge of Ukrainian legislation;
- aptitude testing;

interviews with participants to assess their integrity and professional competence.

The law establishes the following deadlines for certification following the appointment of the Head of the State Customs Service:

- 18 months for the first group: Deputy Heads of the State Customs Service, heads of central office departments and their deputies, heads of customs offices and their deputies;

36 months for the second group: all other customs officials.

Failure to submit an application consenting to participation in the certification procedure, refusal to undergo certification, or receiving an unsatisfactory result shall constitute grounds for termination of civil service under:

- Law of Ukraine No. 3977-IX of 17 September 2024 “On Amendments to the Customs Code of Ukraine Regarding the Establishment of Specific Conditions of Service in Customs Authorities and the Certification of Customs Officials”; and

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1100 of 8 September 2025 “On Approval of the Procedure for Organizing and Conducting Certification, Assessing Integrity and Professional Competence of Customs Officials During Certification”.

Source: https://surl.li/hfoowh



Proposal to Exempt Vehicles Imported by Military Personnel from Import Duty

Draft Law (Registration No. 15194 of 24 April 2026) "On Amendments to the Customs Code of Ukraine Regarding the Importation of Vehicles into Ukraine Without Payment of Customs Duties for Active Military Personnel"

Registration date: 24 April 2026

Initiator: Member of Parliament of Ukraine

The draft law proposes amendments to the Customs Code of Ukraine to exempt from import duty vehicles imported for free circulation by:

- military personnel mobilized after 24 February 2022 who remain in active service at the time of importation;

military personnel serving under contract.

The exemption would apply to one vehicle per person and would cover passenger cars, trucks, motorcycles, trailers, and semi-trailers, except for vehicles subject to the transport tax.

The draft law aims to support military personnel by granting them the right to make a one-time importation of a vehicle without paying import duty. However, its practical effect may be limited, as value-added tax (VAT) and excise tax would remain applicable. Furthermore, the draft does not establish mechanisms to control the subsequent use of imported vehicles.

To mitigate potential risks, it would be advisable to introduce restrictions on the transfer or sale of imported vehicles for a specified period and to provide a financial and economic assessment of the impact on state budget revenues.

Several alternative draft laws have also been registered: No. 15194-1 (7 May 2026), No. 15194-2 (11 May 2026), and No. 15194-3 (11 May 2026), which address some of the shortcomings of the original proposal in different ways.

Source: https://surl.li/qgbpbh

Proposal to Improve Legislation in the Area of Protection of Ukraine's State Border

Draft Law of Ukraine (Registration No. 15118-1 of 14 April 2026) "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Regarding the Improvement of Legislation in the Area of Protection of Ukraine's State Border"

Registration date: 14 April 2026

Initiator: Member of Parliament of Ukraine

The draft law is aimed at a comprehensive modernization of legislation governing state border protection and border control. While many of the proposed changes are technical and organizational in nature, several provisions significantly expand the powers of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS), introduce automated border control mechanisms, and clarify cooperation with customs authorities.

From the perspective of European integration, the draft generally reflects current EU approaches to Integrated Border Management (IBM), the digitalization of control procedures, and the use of biometric technologies.

Key Innovations

1. Automated Border Control (e-Gates)

One of the most significant innovations is the introduction of automated border control for Ukrainian citizens through dedicated hardware and software systems.

The system would provide for:

- scanning of electronic passports;
- collection of fingerprints and/or facial biometric data;
- automatic identity verification;

automatic authorization for border crossing.

2. Expanded Powers of Border Guards in Cargo Inspections

The SBGS would receive broader powers to independently inspect vehicles and cargo, including through the use of service dogs and technical inspection equipment. A comprehensive first-line and second-line control mechanism for vehicles and cargo would be introduced.

3. Joint Border and Customs Control

The draft law provides for the possibility of conducting border and customs controls simultaneously. Border control zones and customs control zones may coincide.

4. Expanded Access to State Registers

The SBGS would obtain direct and automated access to state information systems, registers, databases, and data banks.

5. Counter-UAV Measures

The SBGS would receive expanded powers to forcibly terminate the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and unmanned maritime vehicles through disabling or destruction.

6. Increased Penalties for Carriers

The maximum fine for violations committed during international passenger transportation would increase from 600 to 8,000 non-taxable minimum incomes of citizens.

7. New Restrictions at Border Crossing Points

Additional restrictions and control measures would be introduced at border crossing points.

Following the adoption of the law, amendments will likely be required to secondary legislation administered by the State Customs Service and to joint customs-border guard cooperation procedures.

The draft law represents one of the most comprehensive updates to border control legislation in recent years. Its primary objectives are the modernization of the SBGS, digitalization of procedures, and strengthening of state border security. The introduction of automated border control, the integration of information systems, and the development of joint customs-border controls are expected to have the greatest practical significance.

At the same time, certain provisions concerning expanded control powers and access to personal data may require further refinement during parliamentary consideration.

Source: https://surl.li/ifkjeu



Government Appoints New Head of the State Customs Service of Ukraine

Pursuant to Resolution No. 330 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 10 April 2026, following an open competition, the Government appointed **Orest Mandzii** as the Head of the State Customs Service of Ukraine for a five-year term.

The appointment completed one of the key structural indicators of customs reform established under commitments to the European Union and international partners.

Mr. Mandzii assumed office on 15 April 2026. During his introduction to the staff of the central office of the State Customs Service, he outlined his vision for the institution's future development.

His key priorities include:

- completing the implementation of European customs legislation, including the adoption of a new Customs Code of Ukraine;
- establishing an effective post-clearance audit system to ensure transparency of fiscal policy;
- strengthening the institutional capacity of the customs service through the development of a professional workforce;
- enhancing customs control through modern technical equipment;

granting law-enforcement powers to the State Customs Service.

The competition was mandated by Law No. 3977-IX of 17 September 2024 "On Amendments to the Customs Code of Ukraine Regarding the Establishment of Specific Conditions of Service in Customs Authorities and the Certification of Customs Officials".

Sources: https://surl.lt/fjteck

https://surli.cc/qrbuyt

Renovation Works on the Bus Lane Entering Poland at the Shehyni–Medyka Border Crossing Point

According to information provided by the customs administration of the Republic of Poland, renovation works on the bus lane entering Poland at the **Shehyni–Medyka border crossing point** will commence on **15 June 2026**.

According to preliminary information, the works will continue until **November 2027**.

During this period, buses traveling from Ukraine to Poland will not be processed through the Shehyni–Medyka crossing point.

At the same time, bus traffic from Poland to Ukraine will continue to operate normally.

Source: https://surl.li/mpztns





Expanded Opportunities for Submitting Information Through Electronic Services and Simplifying Interaction Between Citizens and Customs Authorities

The State Customs Service continues to develop digital services and simplify interaction between citizens and customs authorities.

Individuals may now submit applications for the refund of remaining funds from the **Single Treasury Account (STA)** through their Personal Account on the **Single Window for International Trade Portal**, without the need to visit a customs office in person.

The launch of the new service follows the transition in 2026 to the use of the Single Treasury Account mechanism for customs clearance of vehicles, international postal items, and express shipments for private individuals.

This approach has improved transparency, standardization, and convenience in financial transactions.

The new electronic service enables citizens to remotely reclaim unused funds quickly and conveniently at any time and from any location. At the same time, the option to submit applications in paper form remains available for those who prefer traditional methods of interaction.

Source: https://surl.li/ojitqw

Number of AEO-B Authorized Enterprises in Ukraine Increases to Seven

The State Customs Service of Ukraine has granted another company the status of **Authorized Economic Operator – Type B (AEO-B)**.

As a result, seven Ukrainian companies now hold AEO-B status, bringing Ukraine closer to launching negotiations with the European Union on the mutual recognition of Authorized Economic Operator programmes.

AEO-B authorization confirms that a company meets high standards of security and reliability, financial stability, sound business process management, and compliance with customs and tax legislation.

This type of authorization is a prerequisite for concluding mutual recognition agreements on AEO programmes with other countries.

Once Ukraine reaches ten enterprises holding AEO-B status, negotiations with the EU may begin. In the future, this will provide Ukrainian businesses with additional simplifications and advantages in international trade both domestically and abroad.

Currently, 126 enterprises in Ukraine hold **AEO-C** status, seven of which also possess AEO-B authorization. The number of companies with confirmed security and reliability status continues to grow.

Notably, since the beginning of 2026, the same number of enterprises have obtained AEO-B

authorization as during the entire year of 2025.

The further development of the AEO programme and its future mutual recognition by international partners will contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of Ukrainian businesses and integrating them into global supply chains.

Source: https://surl.li/ojitqw

Transition to NCTS Phase 6

Ukraine continues the implementation of **NCTS Phase 6**, the next stage in the development of the New Computerised Transit System used by the parties to the Convention on a Common Transit Procedure.

The transition is being carried out in accordance with the roadmap approved by **DG TAXUD**.

During the transitional period, EU Member States will apply different approaches to customs data exchange, affecting documentation requirements at border crossings.

In particular, when entering the European Union through Romania or Hungary, Ukrainian carriers must submit not only a **T1 transit declaration** but also an **Entry Summary Declaration (ENS)** through the **ICS2 system**, in accordance with EU legislation.

The ENS must generally be submitted approximately one hour before the vehicle arrives at the border crossing point.

At the same time, Poland and Slovakia allow the use of a single combined declaration that includes both transit and safety/security data. This has become possible due to the integration of their national NCTS systems with the EU Import Control System 2 (ICS2), reducing administrative formalities for businesses.

Ukraine is also completing the deployment of NCTS Phase 6, including the possibility of using a combined transit declaration incorporating safety and security data.

A transitional period will remain in place until mid-June 2026, during which Ukrainian economic operators may continue using NCTS Phase 5 and submitting combined declarations containing safety and security data. Poland is applying a similar approach during this period.

Following the full transition to NCTS Phase 6, safety and security data will be integrated directly into the transit declaration, simplifying procedures for international traders and further facilitating Ukraine's integration into the European customs area.

Source: https://surl.li/hqrjyu



“Trade Facilitation Monitoring in Ukraine" is a continuation of the issues of the Monthly Monitoring of Trade Facilitation in Ukraine, which has been prepared by the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting since 2015 within the framework of the Trade Facilitation Dialogue project, with the financial support of the European Union and co-financing of the International Renaissance Foundation, as well as the project **“**Support to the Civil Society Initiative “For Fair and Transparent Customs”, which was implemented with the support of the European Union, the International Renaissance Foundation and the ATLAS Network.

The proposed newsletter is a continuation of the previous ones and is published within the framework of the activities of the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting. The publication consists of three parts (if relevant materials are available):

· Regulations that have entered into force
· Draft regulations
· news.

We understand that small and medium-sized businesses do not have enough time to analyze new legislation or possible regulatory innovations. Also, a significant number of such acts are difficult for an average person to understand. "Monitoring of Trade Facilitation in Ukraine" is designed to draw attention to interesting events, innovations of Ukrainian legislation or planned changes related to the field of trade facilitation, in particular international trade, customs and customs issues, and can directly affect foreign economic entities. Also, in these publications, we will try to analyze draft regulations on this topic.

The Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting (IER) is an internationally recognized independent Ukrainian think tank founded in 1999.

The IER is engaged in the analysis of problems of economic development, international trade and business climate (in particular in the SME sector), participates in the development of policy documents at the national and regional levels.

The IER regularly issues its own macroeconomic forecast for Ukraine and participates in the development of the consensus forecast of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine.

The IER team of sociologists conducts regular surveys of enterprises and experts in order to assess the business climate and expectations of Ukrainian business. IER successfully combines its analytical activities with advocacy for change and participation in the public life of Ukraine. The IER cooperates with central and local authorities, domestic and foreign think tanks, and civil society organizations. The work of the IER is financed by grants, charitable contributions and technical assistance funds.

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