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| **Executive Summary Sheet** |
| Impact assessment on a Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the general arrangements for excise duty and repealing Directive 2008/118/EC (recast). |
| **A. Need for action** |
| **Why? What is the problem being addressed?**  |
| Whereas Directive 2008/118/EC is seen by Member States and Economic operators as an enormous improvement on its predecessor Directive 92/12/EEC several areas for improvement were identified:* lack of synchronisation of excise and customs procedures
* duty paid business-to-business procedures (100,000 per year) are still paper-based
* some provisions lead to different procedures being used in Member States and consequently to complexity for Economic Operators
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| **What is this initiative expected to achieve?**  |
| The initiative seeks to keep a balance between the need to facilitate legitimate cross-border trade and the need to ensure that effective controls and monitoring are in place so that the excise debt is collected. |
| **What is the value added of action at the EU level?**  |
| An absence of action at EU level for excise-customs interactions and exceptional situations Member States might implement different rules creating uncertainty and costs to economic operators.The paper-based procedures for the duty paid business-to-business movements cannot be improved without EU-wide coordination because of the need to share common data and to use common interoperability standards. |

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| **B. Solutions** |
| **What legislative and non-legislative policy options have been considered? Is there a preferred choice or not? Why?**  |
| The following table summarises which solution(s) is envisaged for which problem: Excise-customs interactions Duty paid business-to-business Exceptional situationsSynchronisation XData cross-check XAutomation XCommon Rules X X X |
| **Who supports which option?**  |
| Member States support options on excise-customs data cross-checks and duty paid business-to-business automation, especially if they have a high volume of movements or if they have high excise duty rate because they are expected to reduce administrative costs and decrease fraud.Economic Operators support options on duty paid business-to-business automation and all preferred common rules as these options are expected to reduce their costs for cross-border trade. |
| **C. Impacts of the preferred option** |
| **What are the benefits of the preferred option (if any, otherwise main ones)?**  |
| The yearly benefits for Member States and Economic Operators are assessed at 14.55 and 32.27 million euros respectively.  |
| **What are the costs of the preferred option (if any, otherwise main ones)?**  |
| Business to business automation: one-off initial costs and yearly recurrent costs for Member States are assessed at 21.52 million euros.One-off initial costs and yearly recurrent costs for Economic Operators are assessed at 18.85 million euros. |
| **How will businesses, SMEs and micro-enterprises be affected?**  |
| The automation of duty paid business-to-business procedures is expected to have a positive impact on SMEs as they are the main users of this procedure. Common requirements for alternate proof of exit and exceptional situations may have a positive impact on SMEs as will reduce the overhead of disputes with other Member States than the one of establishment and may increase competitiveness of SMEs. |
| **Will there be significant impacts** **on national budgets and administrations?**  |
| Beside the costs and benefits referred to in the previous sections, no significant impact is expected on national budgets and administrations. |
| **Will there be other significant impacts?**  |
| No impact is expected on other policies, such as fundamental rights, health or environment.No impact is expected either on other stakeholders, such as citizens or consumers. |
|  **D. Follow up** |
| **When will the policy be reviewed?**  |
| The Commission will prepare a retrospective evaluation of the functioning of the new legislation five years after its entry into force. |