

2024 Pre-Budget Document Proposals by
The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry on:

CUSTOMS

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1. **Summer half days ought to be eliminated.** Businesses suffer when government departments work on a half-day schedule, especially departments like Customs.
2. **Replace the existing manifest** with an arrival notification (AN), together with temporary storage (TS) and a presentation notification (PN) system.
3. **Implement an interdepartmental IT platform** sharing information between Customs, Commissioner for Revenue, NSO and BCRS that ensures that the **one-time-only principle is truly put into practice**, ensuring better enforcement and curbing tax avoidance. The National Competent Authority for Emissions Trading Schemes needs to be integrated too, in view of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) audits and vouchers.
4. Implement a **new version of ICS (Import Control System)** to replace the current ICS (Import Control System) for entry summary statements.
5. Implement **trade facilitations for economic operators**, namely the pre-lodged import declarations, streamlined declarations, self-assessment, inclusion of declarant's records and a centralised clearance.
6. Implement a **new Automated Import System (AIS)** with a new coding scheme in accordance with the EU Customs Data Model (EUCDM) without unnecessary layers of bureaucratic requirements.

ILLICIT IMPORTATION FROM SICILY

1. **Proper collection and analyses of information to curb abuse is required.** The local VAT authorities need to get the sales data from the Sicilian retailers through the Sicilian tax authorities. This data would include the Maltese VAT numbers which registered purchases from Italy. This would allow Maltese authorities to check if purchased items were really business inputs or personal consumption.
2. Setting up of an **ad hoc committee made up of local economic operators** (primarily furniture importers and freight forwarders), representatives of the Commissioner for Revenue and representatives of the Customs Department to establish a course of action over a specified span of time.
3. Introduce an **enforcement system similar to that of the Guardia di Finanza in Italy at VGT in Marsa**, with space allocated for physical checks, scans and necessary enquiries before release.
4. Better **tax compliance execution** – this is **best executed at traders' level upon entry of goods in Malta** by ensuring that all incoming declarations tally with the respective VAT return (ideally this verification is done digitally)

