

By PwC Deutschland | 27. März 2026

# EU customs: Council and Parliament agree on landmark reform

**On 26 March 2026 the Council and the Parliament agreed to overhaul the EU customs framework, giving the Union a more modern toolbox to deal with trends such as huge increases in trade volumes, especially in e-commerce, a fast-growing number of EU standards that must be checked at the border and challenging geopolitical realities.**

The reform establishes innovative new instruments to facilitate global trade, collect customs duties more efficiently and to tighten controls on non-compliant, dangerous or unsafe goods. Overall, the new system will allow for more robust controls without excessive burden for authorities and traders.

The co-legislators have agreed on legislation to:

- create a single, state-of-the-art EU customs data hub
- introduce enhanced customs simplifications for the most trusted traders
- implement a new EU-wide handling fee for items contained in small parcels
- establish a new decentralized agency for customs – the EU customs authority – which will oversee the EU customs data hub.

### **Next steps**

The Council and the European Parliament will continue work to finalize the technical elements of the package before final adoption by the co-legislators. The new customs legislation will come into full application 12 months following publication in the EU's official journal.

More information to be found in the Council's **[press release of 26 March 2026](#)**.

### **Schlagwörter**

Customs simplifications, trade agreement