

PROTECTION through action

2018 Results





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Gérald Darmanin,

Minister for Government Action and Public Accounts

ne year ago, I set a priority for Customs to combat tobacco smuggling in support of the public health policy advocated by the President and the Prime Minister. Against a backdrop of rising tobacco prices, all forms of tobacco trafficking were in our sights as we moved to

protect the health of French citizens, safeguard the resources of the social security system and preserve tobacconists' distribution monopoly in France.

Our Customs officers rose to the challenge.

Backed by tougher laws, our officers ramped up controls all over the French territory: at land borders, in ports, airports and train stations, in postal sorting centres and on the Internet.

We also stepped up our presence in urban and peri-urban areas to stop retailers and street sellers from engaging in illicit tobacco sales. Our focus has been on all forms of trafficking and all types of tobacco.

Increased mobilisation has led to a higher number of seizures and fines. Courts have handed down prison sentences for heavy trafficking by organised gangs.

Meanwhile, Customs has continued to work tirelessly to protect the French territory and our fellow citizens. Customs officers have remained steadfast in their efforts to combat illicit trafficking, keep trade flowing seamlessly and drive the economic competitiveness of our businesses across the entire territory, while also harnessing innovation to prepare for the challenges that lie ahead.

I am very proud to present the annual report for 2018 and showcase our achievements in combating illicit trafficking, engaging with a trust-based society, preparing for Brexit and commencing the transformation of our government action.

Furthermore, Customs has built up the trust of businesses with the twin goal of transparency and simplification. It was one of the first government departments to implement the new law for a trust-based society and has fully incorporated the new measures – the right to make a mistake, rulings and the right to a request a review – into its audit and review procedures.

2018 was also shaped by our transformation. We reorganised the Directorate General and overhauled our coordination of the Customs network, in addition to our human resources policy and our airborne and maritime strategy. We also redefined the scope of the National Customs Judicial Department. These moves all testify to our ability to use innovation to meet the challenges of international trade and the shifting landscape of fraud.

In 2019, our efforts will intensify as we witness major changes in the EU Customs Union with the return of a third-country border.

Customs has chosen to prepare early for the new situation as we ready our departments and assist economic operators. We have developed an innovative border management solution to keep trade flowing between France and the United Kingdom in keeping with the protection rules for the EU territory. Customs has engaged in a regional information campaign to help businesses prepare for Brexit as they reorganise their value chains and logistics processes.

I am confident that Customs officers will rise to these challenges with strength and commitment in the service of the public interest.

ENFORCEMENT

FINANCIAL FRAUD AND TAX EVASION



STOP

DRUGS

97.4 tons

seized

in France and in

international waters

(+47.4%)

including

€49.2m in criminal assets seized or identified by the

National Customs Judicial Department (SNDJ), of which €48.8m in France and €400,000 abroad

NARCOTICS

49.1 tons

seized

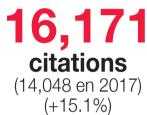
abroad based on intelligence provided

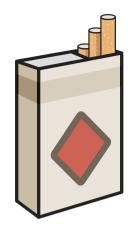
by French Customs

(+45.3%)

including

SMUGGLED TOBACCO



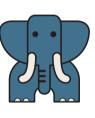


241.1 tons seized in France

(+1.2%)

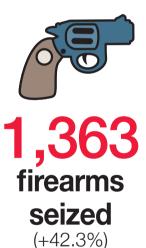
WEAPONS

NATURAL HERITAGE



433 citations issued for violations of endangered plant and animal species legislation (-10.5%)

COUNTERFEITS



12.2 tons of cocaine of cannabis

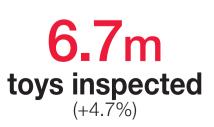
(+32.6%)

63.9 tons (+38.6%)

16.1 tons 33 tons of cocaine of cannabis (+6.6%)(+77.4%)

CONSUMER PROTECTION







5.4m counterfeit items seized (-35.7%)

CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND TAXATION **ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES** F 2'32" **Average time** €84bn that goods are collected immobilised (+57%)(13 minutes in 2004) CUSTOMS CERTIFICATION 39 **1,673** AEOs^{*} 85% cents. the cost of collecting Customs user €100 in customs satisfaction rate duties and taxes (+5.6%)TAX EVASION 2,412 €**313.4**m businesses in taxes and provided with duties reassessed N°2 in Europe advice by French (+16.7%)Customs' Economic Action Centres * Authorised Economic Operator **HUMAN** RESOURCES 87% 16,947 **Overall rate** of paperless FTE customs clearance (full-time equivalent positions as at 31 December 2018)



JANUARY

• The Hendaye Customs unit finds **€260,000 concealed in a car** driving to Spain

Fréjus Customs officers intercept
 2 tons of smuggled cigarettes in two
 Polish vehicles

• The World Customs Organisation chooses official slogan for 2018:

«A secure business environment for economic development»



FEBRUARY

• French Customs participates in the **Salon des Entrepreneurs trade show**

• Boulogne-sur-Mer Customs officers uncover **500 weapons**, **100 kg of ammunition and explosives**

• Gérald Darmanin signs a memorandum of understanding with the French Confederation of Tobacconists for the transformation of the network of tobacconists

• Mame-la-Vallée Customs officers uncover a painting by **Edgar Degas**, «Les Choristes», which had been stolen from the **Cantini Museum in Marseille** in 2009

C 24 athletes from the France Douane team compete in the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Pyeongchang

MARCH

• Gérald Darmanin travels to Andorra to sign a deal to strengthen cooperation in combating tobacco smuggling

• French Customs participate in the SiTL Transport & Logistics Innovation Week trade show

• The National Customs Judicial Department (SNDJ) and the Gendarmerie dismantle a cigarette smuggling ring in Lyon. **2.4 tons of cigarettes and €75,000 in small notes are seized**

C Archaeological looting: the Strasbourg Customs unit seizes 1,000 ancient artefacts with the assistance of the Regional Cultural Affairs Directorate



APRIL

- Narbonne Customs officers seize 4 tons of cannabis in two weeks
- Gérald Darmanin travels to Le Havre to brief the Customs unit and operators on the various **Brexit** scenarios

Clubs for Authorised Economic Operators open in Brittany and Besançon





MAY

The Nice Customs coast guard patrol boat **rescues 71 people** in the Mediterranean as part of an **operation for Frontex**

- Sète Customs officials intercept an attempt to illegally export 24.6 tons of automotive waste to Togo
- Montpellier Customs officials detect 1 ton of cannabis in a shipload of oranges. Four tons of citrus fruits are donated to the «Les Restos du cœur» charity



JUNE

C A first in France: the National Directorate for Customs Intelligence and Investigations (DNRED) dismantles *«Black Hand»*, one of the largest illegal *dark web* marketplaces selling drugs, weapons and fake documents

• French Customs and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) present the results of Operation **OCTOPUS II**, which involved gathering intelligence to identify criminal networks. Seizure of 500,000 counterfeit items

JULY

• 3rd Speed Meeting for businesses with the *Entreprise du patrimoine vivant* (EPV) label abroad

French Customs officers march down the Champs-Elysées on 14 July (Bastille Day). French Customs will now take part each year in the national parade

• Dunkirk Customs officers seize **10 tons of smuggled cigarettes** found in a container from Dakar

• Yannick Borel, a fencer for the France Douane team, becomes world champion in Wuxi, China

• **1.5 tons of cocaine** is intercepted by the Saint-Martin Customs vessel



AUGUST

• The **French Act for a trust-based society** (ESSOC) is published in the Official Journal

A joint operation with the National Criminal Investigation Department leads to **5 tons of counterfeit goods** being seized in the Paris region





SEPTEMBER

Customs officers from the Le Havre targeting unit find **752 kg of cocaine** hidden in a container in a *rip-off* case

A seminar on **«Fighting fraud : the end of the taboo**», is held at Bercy while the bill on combating tax fraud was being considered by the French parliament



OCTOBER

• French Customs takes part in the **BPI Inno Génération** entrepreneurial event at AccorHotels Arena at Bercy

• Gérald Darmanin congratulates Lille Customs investigators on seizing 11 tons of smuggled shisha tobacco

• The **«Brexit : Customs clearance made easy**» information campaign is launched to help operators prepare for Brexit

• The **French Anti-Fraud Act** is published in the Official Journal

NOVEMBER

• French Customs takes part in the *Made in France* trade fair

• The Lyon Customs Judicial unit dismantles an extensive VAT fraud ring in the car retailing industry

© 311 protected reptiles are seized in Arras in an operation involving the National Game and Wildlife Agency, the Département Directorate for Citizen/ Consumer Protection and Veterinary Services and French Customs

• The Club for Authorised Economic Operators opens in the greater Paris region

• The Lyon Customs unit uncovers €544,780 in small notes (24,500 notes)



DECEMBER

• Galeries Lafayette Haussmann is approved as a VAT refund operator

• Dunkirk Customs officers and the DNRED seize **21 tons of shisha tobacco**

Business Café» event in Paris on Brexit



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FIGHTING illicit trafficking

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PLAYING A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE POLICY TO COMBAT TOBACCO TRAFFICKING



ustoms has worked in accordance with the goals of the national tobacco control programme unveiled on 23 January 2018 by the Minister for Government Action and Public Accounts and the Minister for Solidary and Health. Following on from the Prime Minister's policy speech of 4 July 2017, the programme spans economic, social and health policy areas and harnesses a broad range of incentives, preventive actions and repressive measures to combat trafficking. The aim is to help our children to become

the first generation of tobacco-free adults in 2032. To coincide with the increase in tobacco prices, Customs focused its efforts in 2018 on fighting all forms of trafficking, from everyday trafficking to large-scale cross-border trafficking, and on transforming the role of tobacconists into local business owners.

COMBATING ALL FORMS OF TRAFFICKING, A PRIORITY FOR CUSTOMS

The Minister for Government Action and Public Accounts has prioritised the fight against tobacco trafficking.

Controls have been ramped up across the entire French territory: at land borders, in ports, airports and train stations, as well as in postal sorting centres and on the Internet.

All forms of trafficking have come under increased scrutiny, with a focus on criminal organisations, small-scale trafficking and traveller fraud, which all attract a «zero tolerance» policy. Every type of tobacco is targeted, including cigarettes, loose tobacco and shisha tobacco.

Customs has increased controls in urban and peri-urban areas to stop illicit tobacco sales by retailers and street sellers.



Joint Customs/Police and Customs/Gendarmerie controls have been carried out with the authorisation of prefects, in particular targeting illicit sales of cigarettes in retail outlets.

Meanwhile, much tougher penalties have been introduced. Customs now systematically recommends that prefects close down illegal retail outlets.

Fines have been increased for smuggling in organised gangs (fines range from \notin 50,000 to \notin 250,000) and petty trafficking (with fines of between \notin 1,000 and \notin 5,000) if more than four cartons of cigarettes are found.

Courts are now more systematically imposing criminal penalties. Prison sentences were handed down in 2018 for the heaviest trafficking.

The French Anti-Fraud Act No. 2018-898 of 23 October 2018 reinforces the capacity of Customs to tackle tobacco trafficking. The French General Tax Code now states that all individuals carrying more than 800 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos¹, 200 cigars or 1 kilogram of smoking tobacco will be identified as «holding manufactured tobacco products for commercial purposes».

Fines for illegally manufacturing, holding, selling or carrying tobacco have been doubled to between €1,000 and €5,000.

Internet access providers and web hosting companies are now required to notify the public that it is a criminal offence to buy tobacco on the Internet.





Lastly, to combat tobacco smuggling and counterfeit tobacco, a system designed to ensure the traceability and security of the tobacco product supply chain will be introduced on 20 May 2019, in accordance with EU law.

In 2018, Customs started to prepare for the implementation of this new track and trace system for cigarettes and loose tobacco.

Each packet of cigarettes will have five identification markings similar to those used on bank notes.

In addition to those security features, a unique identifier will be marked on all packets of tobacco products to guarantee traceability.

€13.4m penalties related to tobacco



Tobacco smuggling

amount of fines for seizures

• under 1 kg: x 3

- 1 10 kg: x 2.5
- 10 50 kg: x 2

In practical terms, Customs officers will connect to a database to verify the traceability of each packet of cigarettes and easily identify any smuggled tobacco.

Customs officers inspecting truck shipments can instantly check whether excise duties have been paid and will either let the vehicle pass through customs or seize any smuggled goods.

Joining forces with Andorra to combat illicit tobacco trafficking

A letter of intent was signed by Gérald Darmanin and Antoni Marti, Andorra's prime minister, on 16 March 2018 to reinforce cooperation between France and the Principality of Andorra in combating cross-border fraud, in particular tobacco smuggling.

The signing coincided with France's new stronger public health policy, which included a €1 increase in the price of a packet of cigarettes on 1 March 2018.

Under the agreement, which came into force on 1 April 2018, it is now easier to send information, carry out controls and surveillance operations, and issue citations.

It also provided for joint surveillance patrols and controls starting on 1 April 2018.

¹⁻ Cigars weighing a maximum of 3 grams each



Dunkirk: 21 tons of shisha tobacco smuggled

As part of an investigation conducted by the National Directorate for Customs Intelligence and Investigations (DNRED) into the illicit flow of shisha tobacco in France, Customs seized 21 tons of smuggled shisha tobacco after a routine inspection of a container from Dakar.

On 12 December, Customs officers intercepted a container labelled as a shipment of traditional wooden furniture from Dakar.

An inspection of the container soon revealed a large number of boxes full of packets of shisha tobacco. Officers counted 20.98 tons of smuggled shisha tobacco with an estimated street value of more than €3.1 million.

The case illustrates the full involvement of Customs in combating tobacco smuggling and dismantling the criminal organisations involved in trafficking.

BORDER WITH ANDORRA 1,788 citations (+32.5%) i.e. 10.6 tons of tobacco seized

(+17.8%)

75.5 tons of sisha tobacco seized In 2018, French Customs carried out 1,788 seizures along the border with Andorra, equivalent to 10.6 tons of smuggled tobacco.

Trafficking on the Internet : DNRED² dismantles tobacco sales ring on Facebook

After a months-long investigation, Customs officers intercepted a vehicle returning from the Principality of Andorra on the night of Tuesday, 2 October.

Two individuals, one of whom was the ringleader, were taken into custody and 960 kilograms of shisha tobacco and €2,700 in cash were seized.

After a preliminary investigation by the Nantes Court of First Instance, the National Customs Judicial Department (SNDJ) took over the investigation. Four people suspected of being the ringleaders were charged and placed on probation.

Shisha tobacco in the spotlight

In line with the priority of combating the illicit trade in tobacco products, Customs has developed a programme to specifically target shisha tobacco.

This is a Europe-wide programme we are

conducting with our partners under a Europol³ operation led by French Customs.

Shisha tobacco smuggling is a form of tax evasion as smugglers avoid paying excise duties and VAT.

Shisha tobacco smuggling also lowers the revenue of the shisha bars where shisha is sold and creates unfair competition in relation to tobacconists.

On 13 September, Avignon Customs officers intercepted a vehicle from Portugal carrying 600 kilograms of shisha tobacco.

That same day, Customs and police officers seized 146 kilograms of shisha tobacco during a scheduled inspection of a shisha bar in northern Marseille.

Cyberdouane has further strengthened its investigative powers to launch operations. This led to 1.2 tons of shisha tobacco being seized in Marseille in March and nearly 1 ton in Nantes in October.

All told, 75.5 tons of shisha tobacco was seized by Customs in 2018.

²⁻ National Directorate for Customs Intelligence and Investigations

³⁻ The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation facilitaties the exchange of information between national law enforcement agencies in the areas of narcotics, terrorism, international crime and paedophile networks in the EU



A NEW MEMORANDUM OF UNDERS-TANDING IS SIGNED TO SUPPORT THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE NETWORK OF TOBACCONISTS FROM 2018 TO 2021

Gérald Darmanin, the Minister for Government Action and Public Accounts, and Philippe Coy, the Chairman of the French Confederation of Tobacconists, signed a memorandum of understanding on 2 February 2018 for the transformation of the network of tobacconists covering the 2018-2021 period.

The agreement is in line with the government's public health policy, which involves staged tobacco price increases so as to raise the price of a packet of cigarettes to €10 in late 2020.



The agreement boosts support for the most vulnerable tobacconists, particularly in rural areas, and creates an economic safety net for tobacconists whose revenue is projected to decline by more than 15%.

The main objective of the new agreement is to support tobacconists facing huge changes to their business model and help them to transition to a new status as a local business owner.

A temporary transformation fund worth €20 million annually has been set up to assist tobacconists with their business as they rely less on tobacco sales and move to other products.

PROTECTING

FRANCE AND ITS CITIZENS FROM TRAFFICKING

> ustoms is constantly adapting its response to new practices by criminal organisations in a bid to combat smuggling and take up the fight against trafficking of narcotics, tobacco, counterfeit goods and illicit financial flows.



NARCOTICS



AND IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS (+47.4%) INCLUDING :

 12.2 t of cocaine (+32.6%)
 63.9 t of cannabis (+38.6%)

DEALING WITH CONSTANTLY CHANGING TRENDS IN FRAUD

Customs remains mobilised in the fight against new forms of fraud and increasingly creative criminal organisations

Customs carried out a massive operation to dismantle one of the largest illegal French-speaking marketplaces on the *darkweb*, known as « *black hand* ». The forum was selling illicit products and services, including narcotics, weapons, fake documents and stolen bank details. Other major seizures have been conducted by the Cyberdouane unit on the Internet, including of a 3D-printed weapon.

Fighting narcotics trafficking

The sharp increase in cocaine production in Colombia since 2016 has led to higher trafficking flows to Europe. Seizures of cocaine arriving in containers have surged over the past two years.

In 2018, there was also a rise in cocaine smuggled into Metropolitan France and the European Union by travellers from Suriname, *via* French

Guiana. The number of drug traffickers taken into custody has increased by 55% in three years.

With criminal organisations turning massively to drug traffickers, Customs has taken the offensive and implemented a special interception strategy on three levels: as travellers arrive in French Guiana, in the airports they pass through and in the cities of their destination.

In addition, trafficking of prescription drugs misused as narcotics is becoming increasingly widespread. Some of these medicines, such as fentanyl⁴ and its derivatives, are the subject of increased monitoring. Customs has set up an inter-ministerial network to issue alerts and monitor and coordinate the fight against this new type of trafficking.

Persistently tackling the trade in counterfeit goods

Counterfeiting is becoming increasingly widespread and has been boosted by the explosion of e-commerce.

According to the OECD, imports of counterfeit goods are estimated to account for up to 2.5% of global imports. Counterfeiting affects every sector of the economy, including food, automotive parts, cosmetics, medicines and electronics. Customs has been active in stopping the sale



4- Opioid analgesic, 100 times more powerful than morphine



agencies and EU member countries in this respect. Within Europol, French Customs works alongside the OCRGDF⁵ to coordinate the operational action plan for the fight against the financing of criminal activity and money laundering and for criminal asset recovery.

Protecting Europe's external borders: Customs involved in Frontex operations

Speaking at the Sorbonne University in September 2017, the President announced France's

of fake goods over the Internet for several years in an effort to put an end to this form of fraud, which seriously undermines legal retail channels.

Countering illicit financial flows and money laundering

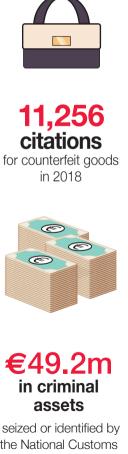
Customs has been engaged in the battle against illicit financial flows for a long time. Its actions include identifying financial criminals and tracking, intercepting and seizing fraudulent sums of money.

The warning signs of money laundering include failure to declare capital and customs-related money laundering.

Customs cooperates with French law enforcement

More than 61,000 counterfeit items seized

On 5 July 2018, a joint operation in the greater Paris region between Customs, the Police and the Ile-de-France Regional and Interdepartmental Directorate for Infrastructure and Planning resulted in the seizure of 61,534 fake goods (30 different brands, including luxury watches, handbags and 40,000 Lacoste-branded articles).



the National Customs Judicial Department (SNDJ) support for an EU border guard corps and stronger powers for Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.

Under Frontex-led operations, Customs mobilised several of its airborne and maritime resources between May and December 2018, including a Beechcraft aircraft in Kalamata, Greece, a land-based unit in Chios, Greece, the Nice coast guard patrol boat in Trapani, Italy and the « Jean-François Deniau » Customs coast guard patrol vessel.

The « Jean-François Deniau » carried out daily patrols in Chios, Greece near the maritime border with Turkey. It performed seven marine rescue operations involving 283 migrants travelling from Turkey.

RENEWING METHODS AND RESOURCES TO COMBAT FRAUD

New airborne and maritime resources go into service

New coast guard patrol boats started operations in Nice, Bastia, Sète and Cherbourg in 2018, along with the Basse-Terre inshore patrol vessel and a Beechcraft Surmar⁶ in the French Antilles.

⁵⁻ Central Office for the Repression of Serious Financial Crime

⁶⁻ Maritime surveillance - long-range aircraft: 6 hours airborne at 77 to 246 knots, equipped for 3 or 4 people. This aircraft will replace the current twin-engine F406. It has extensive detection capabilities and superior aeronautical performance with a range of around 1,000 nautical miles

Pre-deployment of the aircraft enabled Antilles-French Guiana coast guard personnel to become familiar with the SIAM interconnected information and communications system, which provides a quick summary of information on vessels and assists with carrying out operations thanks to an instant messaging service.

Data mining: a new resource

In 2016, Customs started looking at ways to improve how it uses its electronic data in order to fight all types of fraud more efficiently.

It set up the Risk Analysis and Targeting Department (SARC) to centralise risk analysis processes and develop new techniques to find anomalies among the millions of declarations it processes which may indicate fraudulent behaviour.

Customs harnesses **data mining**, which involves using statistical and econometric methods to analyse large datasets in order to identify new patterns of fraud and detect weak signals.

While **data mining** has been used in a range of areas to fight fraud, Customs has achieved outstanding results in customs clearance procedures, particularly when the value of goods has been under-declared. Customs duty is calculated on the basis of declared value.

A special fraud detection model was trialled in 2018 by 20 regional directorates. Relevant targeting has enabled us to uncover nearly €1 million in duties and taxes avoided. This figure does not include any investigations currently ongoing.

Customs has achieved a high level of relevant targeting (almost 50%) because it has implemented a workflow which combines powerful data science resources with expert analysis of results by Customs specialists to identify major cases of fraud.

International cooperation initiatives

Supported by a network of 18 Customs attachés covering 86 countries, French Customs is recognised internationally for its actions to combat trafficking.



1,150 cases of mutual assistance with Spain in 2018 (1,101 in 2017)

In 2018, there were 6,945 exchanges of information with our partners abroad (mutual administrative assistance, international letters of request, customs information requests, etc.). Customs attachés also worked alongside the DNRED to make 70 controlled deliveries of banned products (mainly narcotics) internationally in an attempt to dismantle criminal networks.

Customs was also involved in a large number of international anti-fraud operations in France and abroad in 2018.

Examples include the DNRED-led Operation *Pangea* XI supported by INTERPOL and the World Customs Organisation and Operation Hazeldonk ("star"), carried out with Belgium and the Netherlands to combat drug trafficking by rail.

Another operation was *Ailes Africaines V*, an inter-ministerial operation coordinated by

the regional Customs attaché in Dakar to stop a smuggling ring using light aircraft.

The haul comprised 28 seizures of narcotics. including 472 kilograms of khat, 27 kilograms of cocaine, 28 kilograms of heroin and 30 kilograms of ephedrine, Funded by the Inter-ministerial Mission for Combating Drugs and Addictive Behaviours (MILDECA), the operation brought together 16 countries from Central Africa and West Africa alongside France.

OPERATION «PASCAL ATLANTIQUE»

Under this joint operation, Spanish and French customs authorities patrolled the Spanish and French coastlines to check ships suspected of being involved in organised crime, especially drug trafficking. More than 19 tons of cannabis and 11 tons of cocaine were seized in 2018 as part of joint French-Spanish operations. 1



PROMOTING

business competitiveness

MAKING

A SUCCESS OF BREXIT AND BUILDING UP TRUST WITH BUSINESSES



ur business advisory services contribute to ensuring a fair marketplace in the same way as our controls help to protect the French territory and consumers. Maintaining a balance is an ongoing goal for Customs.

In 2018, the ESSOC Act for a trust-based society came into effect, granting businesses new rights. Customs has also been making preparations for a huge challenge – the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.



the Business Advisory Units within Customs stepped up initiatives and organised a series of Brexit meetings.

Each year, these units provide personalised advice to more than 2,000 businesses throughout French regions.

The aim was to warn businesses about the impact of Brexit and advise them on ways of preparing for Brexit.

Customs' message in 2018 was **«Get ready** for Brexit – Don't delay !».

The **«Brexit : Customs clearance made easy»** campaign was launched in October 2018 to provide information on customs procedures for importing and exporting to small and mediumsized enterprises and industries which had previously only traded with the EU and were not familiar with lodging customs declarations.

The events organised by Customs involved other government departments so as to reach a very broad public. These included prefects, the Directorate General for Enterprise, the Directorate General of the Treasury and the Directorate

PREPARING FOR BREXIT

Customs has been working to keep trade flowing between France and the UK

On 23 June 2016, a majority of UK citizens voted to leave the European Union. This is now known as Brexit.

The vote marks a return to a third-country border with the UK and to customs procedures for crossing the border.

Some 30,000 businesses ship goods from France to the UK each year and 70,000 UK operators export to France. Re-establishing physical borders between the two countries and resuming customs procedures will have a huge impact on doing business.

In 2018, the 40 Economic Action Centres and

€32.7bn in exports to the United-Kingdom in 2018

€20.7bn in imports from the United-Kingdom in 2018

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BREXIT

- French government website: brexit.gouv.fr
- The douane.gouv.fr website is updated regularly (FAQs)
- Email address for Brexit queries: brexit@douane.finances.gouv.fr
- Customs Helpline for individuals and businesses: 0 811 20 44 44
- Business Café events and chat rooms
- Douane Magazine No. 12, January 2019 a special issue on Brexit

General for Food, in addition to our partners abroad (Business France, chambers of commerce and industry and professional associations).

Customs has laid the foundations in preparation for the new third-country border together with the infrastructure operators which will be affected by Brexit.

To prepare successfully for Brexit, Customs set up a project team with a steering committee comprising members of decentralised departments and the Directorate General.

It developed an IT solution called **«Smart Border»** that involves anticipating customs procedures and automating the Channel crossing process for the more than 4 million trucks that use the border each year.

The truck's number plate is automatically linked to the customs declaration for the shipment. The system will only target goods for which an inspection is required in order to keep traffic



Brexit meetings BETWEEN CUSTOMS AND BUSINESSES FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2018

700 new «Brexit» hires BETWEEN 2018 AND 2020 flowing smoothly.

The IT solution was developed in close cooperation with the Channel Tunnel operator and the ferry companies to address the specific features of the Channel crossing point in the Hauts-de-France region.

These include a very short crossing time, a very high rotation frequency and a high volume of truck traffic.

The technical specifications were sent to all operators and posted on the French Customs website to allow operators to develop fully compatible applications.

In addition to working with Channel crossing operators, Customs teamed up with rail (Eurostar services) and airport operators.

Human resources match the magnitude of the challenge

Customs will be hiring an **additional 700 officers over the 2018-2020 period** to effectively manage the impact of Brexit.

A proactive training programme was developed in spring 2018 to organise training for the 700 new recruits in a very short timeframe and provide extra training to officers with new job descriptions.

Staff assigned to Customs offices will process customs declarations, i.e. clearance and transit procedures, and handle a sharp increase in activity because customs clearance was not previously required.





We're at the heart of the busiest transport hub with the UK. We have to make sure that Brexit does not have any adverse effects on the smooth flow of trade with the EU. The business model of local cross-Channel operators is also at stake here. In Calais, more than 5,000 trucks take the 50 ferry rotations each day.

We have been working with as many operators as possible over the past year to prepare for the Brexit deadline and avoid any of the blockages that people are so worried about.

ÉRIC MEUNIER FRENCH CUSTOMS INTER-REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR HAUTS-DE-FRANCE REGION



KBrexit is a huge challenge for UK customs authorities.

First, it involves cooperation between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the UK Border Force (UKBF), which is responsible for border control operations and is part of the Home Office. Second, there's the problem of re-writing the entire regulatory framework for customs and adjusting infrastructure.

In my role as Customs attaché, I constantly liaise with French Customs, advise the French ambassador to the UK and assist economic operators with their preparations. After Brexit, it is essential for us to

maintain and even deepen our bilateral relationship. \gg

HERVÉ MATHEVET, FRENCH CUSTOMS ATTACHÉ TO LONDON

Units involved in surveillance and antifraud operations will be in charge of air and maritime border crossing points (BCP) used by UK travellers. There will be a sharp increase in border traffic due to :

- tougher migrant controls ;
- the re-introduction of customs procedures for travellers to and from the UK and the return of duty free entitlements for UK travellers passing through exit points as they leave France for the UK.



Brexit also heavily impacts infrastructure

Infrastructure has been largely redeveloped to accommodate new Customs offices and higher staff numbers in the Hauts-de-France/ Normandy areas.

Customs departments have been opened at ports, airports and the Channel Tunnel.

Two offices open 24/7 will be set up in Calais and Dunkirk to handle traffic from the Channel Tunnel and the Calais ferry lines.

ESSOC ACT

14 new indicators TO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ACT

160 managers IN REGIONAL FRANCE TRAINED IN THE RIGHT TO MAKE A MISTAKE SINCE 2018

INFORMATION CERTIFICATE

Under this measure, prior to becoming a registered customs representative (RDE), operators are entitled to request an information certificate outlining all the rules that apply to their activity.

The government can be held liable if the information provided is wrong or incomplete, and if an operator suffers any damage as a result.

CUSTOMS GIVES BUSINESSES NEW RIGHTS UNDER ESSOC ACT

The *ESSOC* Act for a trust-based society of 10 August 2018 strengthens and deepens trust between Customs and economic operators acting in good faith. It calls for a new system of government audits and reviews.

To advise operators of the changes quickly, Customs hosted a range of events to present the new system and also made use of social media.

The Act aims to reinforce the legal rights of economic operators and outlines the trust-based relationship between Customs and operators in accordance with three main notions.

The right to make a mistake is the Act's flagship measure and is aimed at users who unintentionally make a mistake in their customs declaration for the first time and who correct that mistake.

Under the new law, penalties cannot be imposed and default interest charges for late payments are reduced. The focus of the measure is on mediation, while also collecting any unpaid duties.

The right to a request a review now has a broader scope and covers all Customs activities. Users can ask the authorities to check any decisions that go against them and request a ruling or a review ruling.

Audits and reviews now take on the form of advice and guidance to assist users, and their purpose is no longer to only check compliance with regulations.

TRIAL TO LIMIT THE LENGTH OF AUDITS

The *ESSOC* Act provides for a four-year trial to limit the length of audits into small and medium-sized enterprises in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Hauts-de-France regions commencing on 1 December 2018.

Audits will not be allowed to last more than nine months over a three-year period.

Review rulings are broader than tax rulings issued to taxpayers. A decision by a Customs department on all the points examined under a customs audit or review is binding for the government and becomes a ruling.

CUSTOMS SUPPORTS GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS OF BUSINESSES

Under the *ESSOC* Act, Customs is now partnering with businesses to raise their awareness of the strategic role Customs can play in their operations. Businesses are encouraged to make customs an integral part of their international development strategy.

Customs safeguards licit trade and supports the competitiveness of businesses operating legally while building a trust-based relationship with them.

Working together with economic operators, Customs now delivers faster and more costeffective customs clearance services by issuing certificates, statuses and authorisations and providing free, personalised advice.

French customs was ranked No. 2 in Europe in 2018 for the number of valid Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) statuses granted (1,673), behind Germany.

Under the French centralised national customs clearance procedure (DCN), the forerunner of the Union Customs Code (UCC), businesses have a sole contact point and flows subject to customs declarations are separate from physical flows of goods.

This has considerably streamlined clearance

212 meetings BETWEEN CUSTOMS AND BUSINESSES IN 2018

1,673 AEO STATUSES GRANTED IN 2018

> NO. 2 BEHIND GERMANY

676 DCN procedures

I.E. 29.2% OF CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FLOWS IN 2018 procedures since 2016.

This French procedure is now used for over one quarter of all customs clearance operations.

It is equally popular among customs brokers, importers and exporters, who can integrate the customs clearance process into their logistics organisation.

French Customs is working with its EU partners on a fully electronic UCC.

The aim is for its operators to be among the early adopters of the electronic UCC environment in 2021 and to firmly establish their customs clearance operations in France.

CUSTOMS COMPLETES DIGITISATION OF BUSINESS SERVICES

Rolling out electronic payment systems for all users is in progress.

Customs continued to connect online tax procedures with online payment procedures by bank card and direct debit (e-payment).

E-payment will become mandatory in 2019 from the first euro for all payments made by businesses. Individuals will have the option of paying their customs debts by bank card.



EU-CANADA AGREEMENT

French customs played a major role throughout 2018 in promoting the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) signed with Canada. It has provided individualised support for businesses to enable them to fully understand the concept of rules of origin so as to safeguard their exports to Canada in the longer term.

The number of operators exporting to Canada has risen by more than 6% and French exports are up nearly 10% to €3.3 billion.

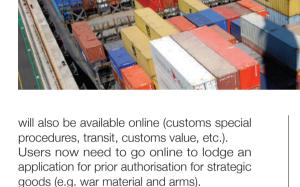
In 2018, GUN – the national online platform for customs clearance - expanded its services to include online verification of government documents which are generated during customs clearance procedures, e.g. export licences for dual-use goods.

Customs also continued to add new digital services in 2018 to the SOPRANO online platform where customs authorisations are issued.

Economic operators can now apply for an Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number on the pro.douane website.

This number is mandatory for customs procedures in the EU.

Authorisations for customs clearance procedures



After rolling out the DELTA X EXPORT application in early 2018 for express freight and postal shipments, we were one step closer to achieving our target of fully digitising

customs declarations. Developed alongside businesses, including FedEx as the lead company, DELTA X is gradually opening up to all the sector's key operators.



We had previously set up an outward processing procedure for product returns to our plants. But over the past few years, all our new products have obtained binding tariff information before they have been released on the market.

The French customs Economic Action Centre in Saint-Germain-en-Laye was a huge help with these two administrative procedures and also assisted us with

centralised customs clearance. They advised us on the requirements of the «Made in France» label and helped us to implement a more flexible cash management solution. Their personalised advice greatly improved our understanding of customs regulations and boosted our competitiveness.

ELLEN GRIFFITH IMPORT/EXPORT COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST, WITHINGS

99.1% of revenue paid ELECTRONICALLY. I.E. €83BN IN 2018 68,309 FORI **APPLICATIONS** MADE VIA SOPRANO IN 2018 600 authorisation



ARMS LODGED VIA SOPRANO IN 2018 1.5m declarations

applications

FOR EXPORTS OR IMPORTS OF

LODGED ON DELTA-X EXPORT IN 2018







the transformation of government action





MODERNISING

OUR ORGANISATION, RESOURCES ET PROCEDURES

> s part of the ministerial plan for transformation, French customs pushed ahead with the modernisation of its organisation and working methods in 2018.

LEADING CHANGE TO SUPPORT CUSTOMS FUNCTIONS

A new organisation was put in place at the Directorate General of Customs and Excise in 2018.

The goal was to prepare more effectively for the transformation of government action and the impact of digital technology on all Customs functions.

The idea was also to improve relations with all its departments and provide added support to territorial divisions, especially overseas.

A network sub-directorate was created to coordinate the network's initiatives in regional departments. It is tasked with prioritising strategic guidelines and ensuring consistency when they are implemented in the network.

Working cross-functionally has been a priority for our managers in recent years and has proven to be highly effective. This involves breaking down silos and collaborating on specific projects, data or flows across the organisation instead of staff remaining within the one department.

This outward-looking policy also enables us to better meet the needs of businesses and streamline their dealings with Customs.

CORES VALUES



- DISCRETION
- EXEMPLARITY
- PROFESSIONALISM
- IMPARTIALITY
- INTEGRITY
- SOLIDARITY

French customs has long developed a culture of change management, supporting staff, departments and territories.

The Directorate General's sub-directorate of human resources and employee relations has been reorganised with a focus on :

- new hires and career management to consolidate individualised career development and build and coordinate a network of managers both centrally and inter-regionally;
- the working environment, with the aim of fostering an environment that creates a healthy work/life balance while listening to employees, ensuring their health and safety and providing ergonomic workstations.

ADAPTING INTERNAL PRACTICES AND ORGANISING RESOURCES

As declarations increasingly go digital, trade grows and new forms of fraud emerge via e-commerce, the Risk Analysis and Targeting Department (SARC) has been expanded, harnessing innovative methods to support the transformation in two ways :

- bringing together experts in particular fields who previously worked in different departments. This delivers a more cross-functional working environment and boosts the efficiency of the chain of command;
- using the latest technology (data mining) to analyse electronic datasets and hiring data scientists to combat fraud.

STATEMENT OF CORE VALUES

French customs has adopted a set of core values to promote a collective identity within the government department.

The statement of core values is part of the national code of ethics and conduct (PND) and aims to reassert the common values that underpin customs policy and practice. It incorporates the main principles of the French Public Sector Ethics Act of 20 April 2016.

The statement of core values was drafted collaboratively with Customs employees.



- KThe *«Ambition DG»* project identified the priorities for transformation and worked out a new organisation for the Directorate General so as to break down the barriers between the different departments. There were three main goals:
- balance out the scope of responsibility of sub-directorates, which are now in charge of dealing with operators directly (specialist departments and departments with nationwide responsibility) in their area of expertise;
- professionalise the support functions;
- establish a sub-directorate in charge of coordinating the network of decentralised departments. Customs was the only government department within the Ministry for the Economy and Finance that did not have a unit of this type.

The network sub-directorate will be all about cross-functional working and facilitation, which are essential for project management, coordination and effective teamwork. It will strengthen ties between the Directorate General and the territorial divisions, oversee the organisation and operations of all departments and prepare for the transformation of government. This also means that the overseas network now has a single contact point.

Two years after it was set up, the SARC is now a key player in the fight against fraud.

Customs analysts work side by side with data scientists on the various stages of risk analysis and targeting (defining the model, detecting the most relevant targets and analysing results). Collaborative working was a decisive success factor along with close cooperation with territorial divisions.

Initial **data mining** trials have yielded some extremely encouraging results.

As announced at the seminar on **«Fighting fraud: The end of the taboo»** organised on 13 September 2018 by the Minister for Government Action and Public Accounts, the SARC will be trialling new methods and new partnerships with the public sector (cooperation with the Public Finances Directorate General) and the private sector (digital operators).

A new department, the National Customs Coast Guard Directorate (DNGCD), will be created to ramp up Customs' role in the government's maritime operations and carry out airborne/maritime and airborne/land missions. The new department will open in Le Havre on 1 July 2019.

Customs' coast guard activities will thereby come under a clear governance structure. The new network sub-directorate within the Directorate General will be tasked with devising the new strategy.

The DNGCD will comprise a central department to support and coordinate operations and

894 positions AT THE DNGCD ON 1 JANUARY 2020



three coast guard directorates (French Antilles, Mediterranean and Nantes) will carry out operations.

The National Customs Judicial Department (SNDJ) was also reorganised in 2018.

The Anti-Fraud Act of 23 October 2018 paves the way for a new national judicial inquiry department reporting to both the Director General of Customs and Excise and the Director General of Public Finances.

This department will be staffed with customs officers and tax officers who are authorised to carry out judicial inquiries into serious customs, financial and tax crime.





We have reorganised the National Directorate for Customs Intelligence and Investigations (DNRED) because we want to bolster the legal framework under which our officers operate and promote practices and analysis methods that take a more holistic approach to customs crime trends.

KThe reorganisation has also brought about new recruitment methods, new training programmes and a new managerial culture. We have defined new internal policies and procedures for improved oversight of the transmission and distribution of intelligence material.

KThe reorganisation boosts cross-functional working between departments to step up cooperation on operations and anticipate threats.

CORINNE CLÉOSTRATE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS INTELLIGENCE AND INVESTIGATION

NEW AND IMPROVED RESOURCES TO BETTER PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

Customs implemented some major digital initiatives in 2018 under its strategic IT plan dubbed "e-customs".

It introduced new lifecycle management processes for applications. It also insourced some digital platforms so it could start a multi-year programme to adapt customs technology to the new digital environment and boost simplification.

By improving the management of its IT projects, Customs is now at the centre of the decision-making process and coordinates its own resources.

A local customs judicial unit was opened

in the French Antilles. Located in Fort-de-France in Martinique, this unit is the first of its kind outside Metropolitan France. Judicial authorities welcomed the move as here is a serious lack of judicial investigators specialised in economic and financial matters in the region.

Eagerly awaited by the judges of the French Antilles and French Guiana jurisdictions, the judicial officers quickly started work on investigations requested by public prosecutors and investigating judges.

It did not take long for an outcome. After signing an agreement with the public prosecutor's office in Fort-de-France, judicial officers were put in charge of an investigation after Customs officers at the airport caught two individuals arriving from Metropolitan France with hundreds of thousands of euros in cash.

CUSTOMS MANAGERIAL PLAN

A managerial plan was launched in 2018 to define a new policy for all managerial staff at French customs.

One of the priorities is to identify talented individuals and plan for career development. The goal is to foster a culture of innovation and meet the challenges of a fast-evolving public service in the interests of agility, creativity, autonomy and diversity.

CUSTOMS WORKFORCE



- 51.2% of officers involved in commercial transactions and general administration
- 48.8% of officers involved in surveillance
- 38% share of women in overall staffing numbers

SPECIALIST OFFICERS

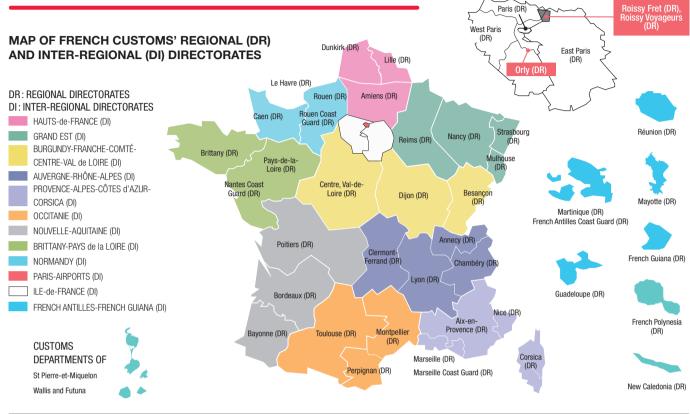
- as at 31/12/2018
- 523 maritime officers
- 113 airborne officers
- 253 motorcyclists
- 280 dog handlers
- 773 investigators and intelligence officers
- 242 judicial officers
- 459 IT staff

DOUANE



Appendices BASIC FACTS ABOUT FRENCH CUSTOMS

THE DGDDI'S REGIONAL ORGANISATION IN METROPOLITAN FRANCE AND OVERSEAS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018



CAPACITIES

BUDGETARY
RESOURCES

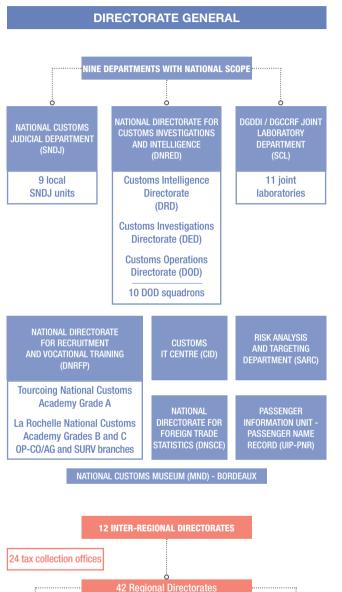
(Expenditure in millions of euros, excluding contributions to retirement pensions)

	2018
STAFF	840.66
OPERATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE	187.7
INTERVENTIONS	82.3
INVESTMENT	45.7
TOTAL	1 156.36
PENSION Contributions	374.48

MATERIAL RESOURCES

	NUMBER OF	2017	2018	
LAND-BASED Fleet	Vehicles Motorcycles	2,655 469	2,668 468	
	53-metre coast guard patrol vessel	1	1	
NAVAL AND Air fleets	43-metre coast guard patrol vessel	2	2	
	19-to-32-metre coast guard patrol boats	15	15	
	10-to-14-metre inshore patrol vessels	13	13	
	Teaching vessels	3	4	
	Twin-engine aircraft	10 (including 1 Polmar and 7 Beechcraft KA 350s)	10 (including 1 Polmar and 7 Beechcraft KA 350s)	
	Single-engine aircraft	-	-	
	Helicopters	9 (including 5 EC 135s)	7 (including 5 EC 135s)	
DETECTION EQUIPMENT	Fixed scanners	1	1	
	Mobile scanners	4	4	
	X-ray machines	90	88	
	Density meters	125	125	
	Particle analysers	63 (including 46 lonscan 600-new equipment) 55 (including 46 lonscan 600-ne		
	Survey meters	63	66	
	Spectrometers	36 (Rigaku spectrometers-new equipment)	59 (Rigaku spectrometers-new equipment)	

OPERATIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE (DGDDI)



CUSTOMS TAXATION

CHANGES TO CUSTOMS REVENUE IN MILLIONS OF EUROS (Breakdown)

	2017	2018
CUSTOMS CLEARANCE	9,420	8,846
Customs duties	2,079	2,121
Import VAT	7,316	6,691
Other	25	34
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT	50,924	55,417
TICPE	30,554	33,334
TSC DOM	521	551
VAT on fuel	9,722	10,931
TICGN + TICFE + TICHLC	9,497	9,928
Taxes and remuneration on behalf of oil industry professionals	8	8
TGAP	622	665
EXCISE DUTIES (CI)	16,943	17,392
Alcohol and beverages	4,537	4,563
Tobacco	12,304	12,742
Other excise duties	102	88
DOCK DUES AND MARITIME ACTIVITIES	1,841	1,896
Dock dues	1,269	1,299
Port dues	528	547
DAFN	44	51
TAX ON CERTAIN ROAD VEHICLES (TSVR - AXLE TAX))	172	177
OTHER TAXES	179	274
TOTAL	79,480	84,002

-TICPE: Domestic tax on consumption of energy products -TSC DOM: Special consumption tax in overseas departements -TICGN: Domestic tax on consumption of natural gas -TICFE: Domestic tax on consumption of electricity by end-users -TICHLC: Domestic consumption tax on coal, brown coal and coke, known as the «Carbon Tax» -TGAP: General tax on polluting activities -DAFN: Flagging and navigation tax

CHANGES TO DUTIES AND TAXES REASSESSED SINCE 2014 (IN MILLIONS OF EUROS)



 42 Regional Directorates

 78 territorial divisions

 162 Customs offices

 47 excise departments

 200 land-based units

 4 REGIONAL COAST GUARD DIRECTORATES

 - Antilles - Marseille

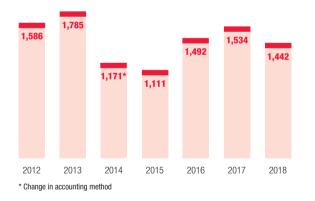
 - Nantes - Rouen

 - Wallis and Futuna

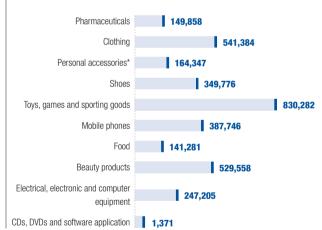
36 airborne-naval units

NARCOTICS		2017 QUANTITIES/DOSES (d)*		2018 QUANTITIES/DOSES (d)*	
AND TOBACCO					
	SEIZURES OF NARCOTICS	Seized in France and in international waters	Seized abroad	Seized in France and in international waters	Seized abroad
	Cocaine	9.2 tons	15.1 tons	12.2 tons	16.1 tons
GENERAL DATA*	Cannabis	46.1 tons	18.6 tons	63.9 tons	33 tons
ON SEIZURES	Khat	7.2 tons	-	17.5 tons	-
BY FRENCH	Heroin et opiates	243 kg	0.9 kg	628.8 kg	10.2 kg
CUSTOMS	Amphetamines	509.4 kg et 1,164 d	1.5 kg	184 kg and 688 d	10.3 kg and 3,128,752 d
ΒΥ ΤΥΡΕ	Synthetic drugs	575.4 kg	12.3 kg	470 kg et 7,274 d	6 kg
OF PRODUCT	LSD	10,776 d	-	15,515 d	-
Rounded to the nearest tenth.	Ecstasy	11.7 kg et 848,839 d	-	1,203,607 d	6,078 d
	Psychotropics	162.2 kg et 1,119,962 d	8,000 d	256 kg et 508,554 d	-
	Precursors	1.9 tons	5 kg	2.1 tons	-
	Other narcotics	212.3 kg	-	168.9 kg	3.9 kg
	GRAND TOTAL	66.1 tons	33.8 tons	97.4 tons	49.1 tons
	SEIZURES OF TOBACCO	238.2 tons	112.3 tons	241.1 tons	40.3 tons

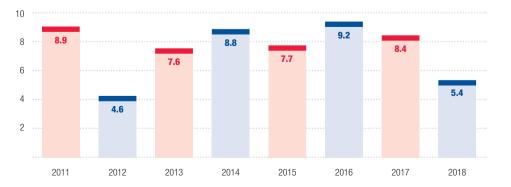
CHANGES TO THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS BY BUSINESSES FOR INTERVENTION BY FRENCH CUSTOMS TO INTERCEPT COUNTERFEITS



MAIN SEIZURES OF COUNTERFEITS BY TYPE OF PRODUCT (IN NUMBER OF ITEMS)



*Spectacles/sunglasses, bags, jewellery, etc.



CHANGES TO SEIZURES OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS SINCE 2011 (MILLIONS OF ITEMS)

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