



# Paper-based Proofs of Preferential Origin under CoViD-19 crisis

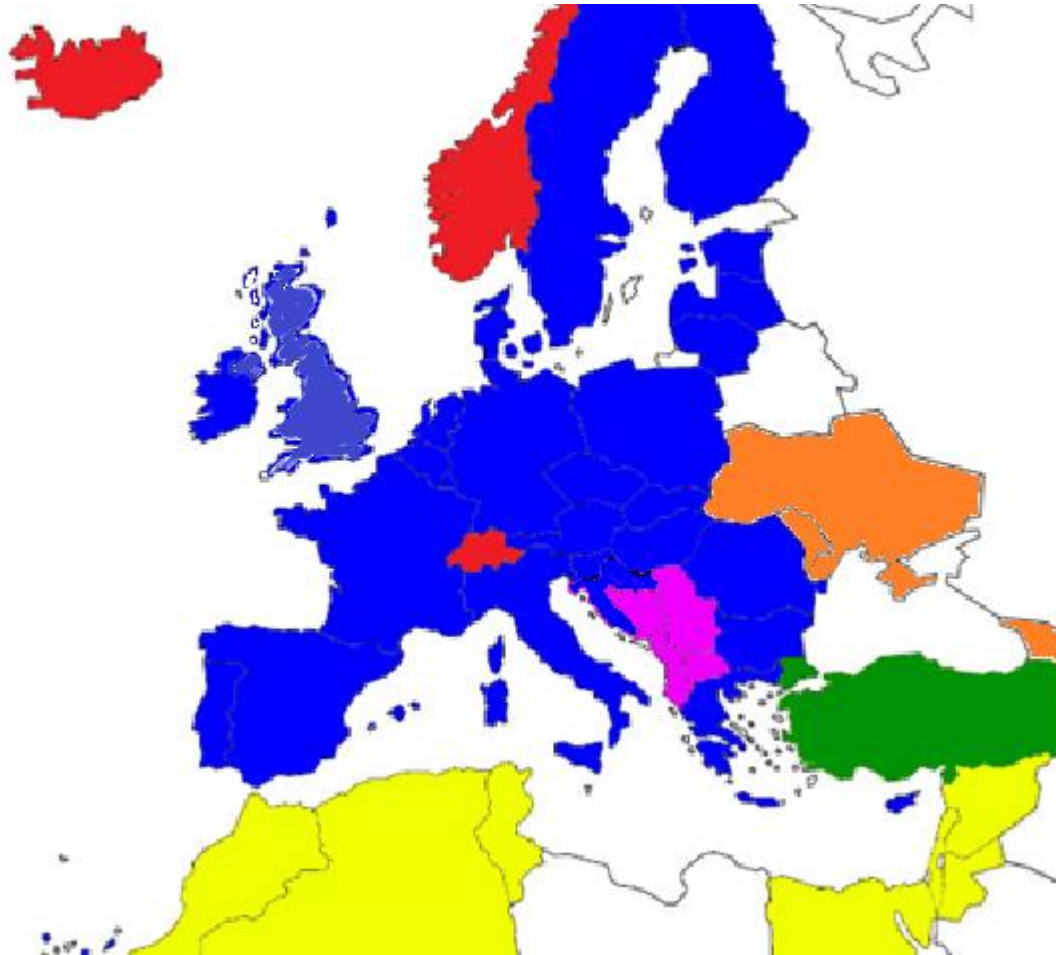
Measures adopted by the European Union and its partners of  
the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Area

*TAXUD E4 – Rules of origin*  
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*October 2020 – WTO*

# Content

1. Before CoViD-19 – issuance of proof of preferential origin
2. CoViD-19 – Lockdown
3. Measures taken
4. Lessons learned

# Geographical scope – PanEuroMed Area



## Contracting Parties:

EU  
(the rules apply to the UK until 31/12/2020)

EFTA States

Participants in the Barcelona Process  
(Mediterranean countries or MEDs)

Participants in the EU Stabilisation  
and Association Process (SAP  
partners)

Faroe Islands

Eastern partnership of the EU

# 1. Before CoViD-19

Overview of issuance of proofs of preferential origin in the Pan-Euro-Med Area

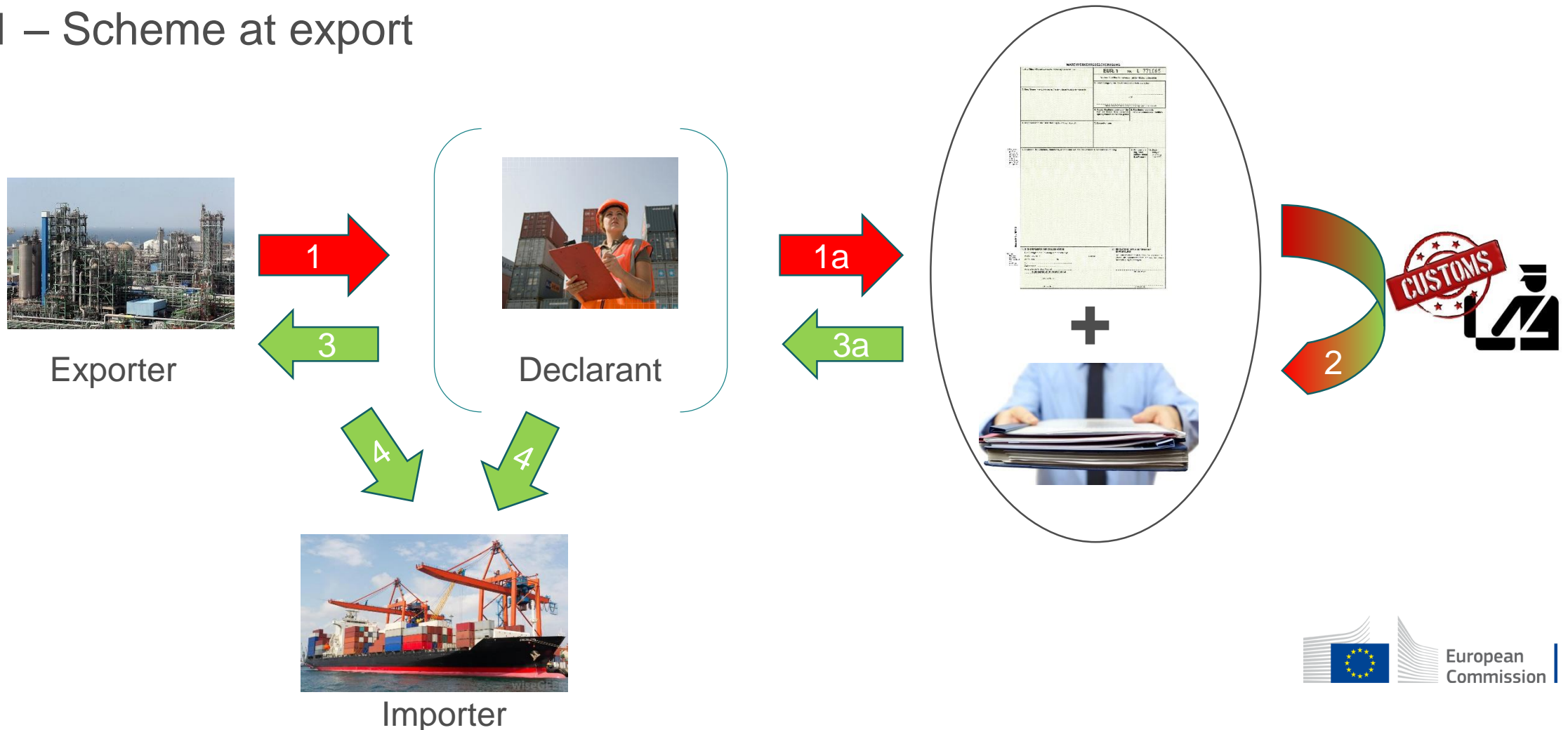
# 1. Situation of the proof of origin

- A network of free trade agreements has been build over 40 years between the EU and its neighbouring partners.
- More than 60 trade agreements have been concluded in the region.
- Since 2004, rules of origin are identical under a common model known as the “PanEuroMed rules”.
- As of 2013, introduction of a single legal instrument governing the rules of origin:

The Regional Convention on  
pan-Euro-Mediterranean Preferential Rules of Origin  
(the “PEM Convention”)

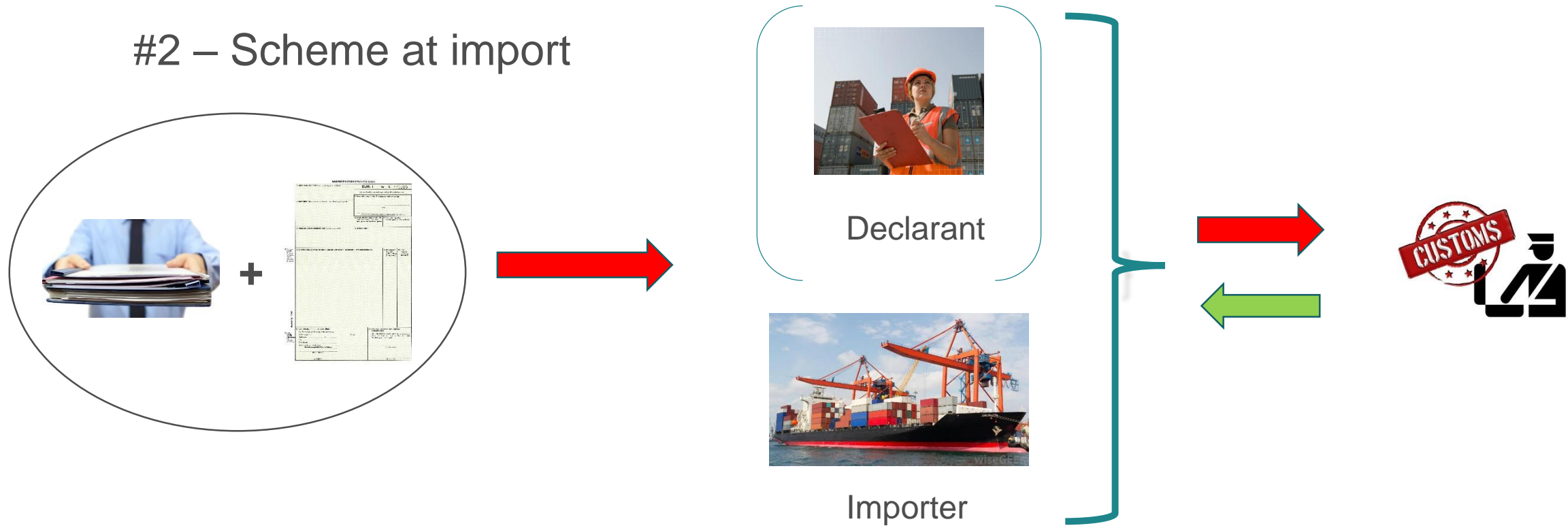
# Paper-based origin certification

## #1 – Scheme at export



# Paper-based origin certification

#2 – Scheme at import



# 2. CoViD-19 Lockdown

Identified issues



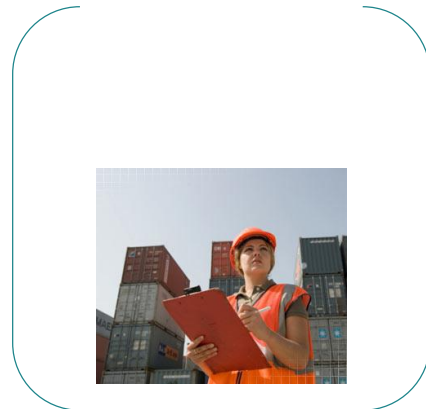
# Lockdown and restrictions

2 main issues were identified:

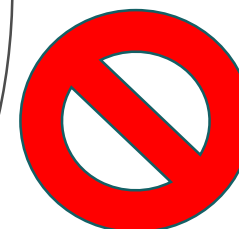
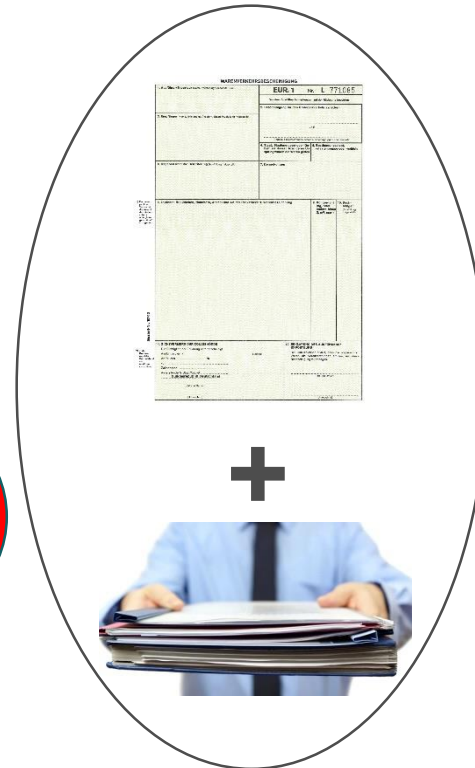
- Impossibility for declarants to come to the customs office
- Closure of customs offices



Exporter



Declarant



# 3. Measures taken

Different measures at all scales

# Measures taken

- Initiatives by EU customs authorities
  - Issuance of confirmation letters digitally signed to prove the authenticity of unstamped certificates
  - Exchange of scanned certificates via e-mail between the economic operator and the customs office
  - Exchange by post of certificates

# Measures taken

- Actions taken by the European Commission
  - Legal analysis
    - Draft of an information note for economic operators
  - Coordination with EU Member States authorities and partner countries
    - Digital platform CIRCA-BC interest group « PEM »
  - Communication to economic operators
    - Websites of European Commission



“  
*CoViD-19 TAXUD Response website page is an important tool of communication*

- *Real-time information provided to economic operators*
- *Predictability of the different measures (level of acceptance of copies of proof of origin)*
- *Gathering the data, centralising the data, distribution of the data*

# 4. Lessons learned

Immediate consequences of the crisis

# 4. Lessons learned

- Digitisation of the certificates
  - Great interest of economic operators in digitalised certificates
- EU response
  - Self-certification where possible
  - Proposal of a Project group on feasibility of digitalisation including a G2G, G2B and B2B channels.

# Thank you

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