



TRADE OBSERVER

The official Customs Bridge monthly update
April 2020

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Hello, World

WEBSITE LAUNCH

OVHCLOUD STARTUP PROGRAM

IMPROVING TRANSLATIONS

A CUSTOMS TARIFF FULL OF SURPRISES

Photo from Joshua Earle, Unsplash

WEBSITE LAUNCH

A showcase on the World Wide Web

With an increasingly advanced application, and soon to be available to our partners, it was time to make ourselves known on the web.

Our new website customsbridge.fr is now online and ready to be referenced by search engines.

In fact, it is in response to this important milestone that we have named our April issue "Hello, World". This is a nod to the field of programming where it is customary to display these two words on screen when discovering a new language.

You will find on this website past and future issues of Trade Observer, a blog on customs and IT, and of course our offer of services and a partnership proposal.

IMPROVING TRANSLATIONS

As a reminder, one of the most important data sources for classifying a product are the BTI, Binding Tariff Information.

Simply put, these are requests for classification made by the customs administration of each EU country. That means BTIs in 22 languages.

Thanks to a generous offer from ModernMT (an Italian online translation company with better results than google) we have been able to translate all BTIs into English and French, which will allow us to overcome the language barrier and also significantly improve the quality of our search engine.

OVHcloud Startup Program

We are pleased to announce that we have been selected to benefit from the OVH Startup Programme.

This program provides us with credits for the use of IT infrastructure, as well as consulting hours.



**Startup
Member**

This is very timely as we are aiming to put the Alpha version of our software online at the end of May, and we are in great need of this IT infrastructure.

This program started at the very end of April and will last one year.

Thanks to OVH for trusting us and helping us grow!

A CUSTOMS TARIFF FULL OF SURPRISES

Creating a classification for everything on earth that is traded is not easy. Yet this is the stated purpose of the customs nomenclature.

- In France, the **first** reference to a **customs classification** dates back to **1791** with the creation of a national tariff.
- At the **international level**, in **1950**, the Customs Cooperation Council in Brussels issued its nomenclature. First draft of an international agreement.
- The European Combined Nomenclature as we know it today came to life on 23 July 1987.
- In 1988, the global HS (Harmonized System) was created by the WCO.

Jean Sliwa, a former senior customs official and advisor of Customs Bridge points out that beyond a purely administrative aspect, the Customs Tariff is also a kind of encyclopedia, which allows you to discover, among other things:

- Products, old, unknown (Ex: the bouteur, etreindelle, orchestrion, the plectre).
- The linguistic roots of the products (Ex: plants in latin, "witloof" for endive).
- Ancient, little-used and surprising terms (Ex: piquette, houille).
- Terms from new technologies (Ex: Radom access memory, robots, and probably someday artificial intelligence).
- Continents, countries, regions, towns and villages, representative of a product (Ex: Messine, Florence, le Cachemire, the wines regions and towns).

IN NUMBERS...

A Better Understanding of the Tariff



FIND CHAPTER 77

The customs nomenclature runs from Chapter 1 to 99 and comprises 98 chapters. 98? Yes! 77 has disappeared.

DAVID VERSUS GOLIATH

Some chapters do not box in the same category:

Chapters 14 and 80 have 6 declarable codes.

Whereas chapter 29 contains 1622.



HELP ME !

If there's one chapter that confuses the experts, it's 85.

It alone records more than 26,400 valid BTI applications.

This reminds us that diving into a nomenclature of more than 24,000 elements is not only difficult, but can also take the form of a journey through time and countries.

Although this geographical, temporal and legislative jungle is interesting to explore, **Customs Bridge** digest it to **guide** you as **quickly** as possible to the **customs position** you are interested in.