

# TRADE OBSERVER

The official monthly update by CustomsBridge

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30

**Towards a  
greener future ?**

**INNOVATION AND COMMON SENSE  
FOR THE BENEFITS OF ECOLOGY IN TRANSPORT**

**THE DIGITAL MARKETS ACT :  
NORMS REVOLUTION & FREE COMPETITION**

**CUSTOMS: TWO WEEKS OF FIGHT AGAINST THE  
TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL GOODS**

## INNOVATION AND COMMON SENSE FOR THE BENEFITS OF ECOLOGY IN TRANSPORT

**According to the International Energy Agency, the transport sector was accountable for 25% of the world's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2018. With the climate emergency and the alarming reports of the IPCC, it is time for the companies of the sector to adapt.**

Of course, mankind has always been able to capitalize on its **technological innovations** to move forward. It is therefore through innovation once again that humanity hopes to free itself from polluting vehicles.



This is at least the objective of Neoline, which has developed a technology for **merchant ships with wind power propulsion**, based on the same principles as sailboats.

A first 136 m prototype ought to be operational by 2024 and should already guarantee 80 to **90% fuel savings without giving up on transport efficiency**. If successful, this project could truly revolutionize global maritime transport and allow a **drastic reduction in the sector's GHG emissions**.

While waiting for a revolution in means of transport, progress can be made for their fuels. While no miracle solution is currently being used by manufacturers, **alternative fuels** such as LNG or LPG are already being used by some companies and public authorities, but their benefits remain limited.

In addition, other **promising energies** are being studied. It is the case, for instance, of **hydrogen engines**, which are practically non-polluting but still suffering from a storage issue. It is also true with **ethanol**, which is inexhaustible, inexpensive, and up to **90% less polluting**, but whose extraction is in competition with the food industry.

In short, environmentally friendly fuels exist, but they must now be effectively implemented into vehicles and on the market.



However, companies do not have to talk in future tense when it comes to environmental actions. Some companies have already opted for **eco-driving training** for their employees, which on average leads to a 10% saving in fuel consumption, thus providing **economic, ecological and safety benefits**. Global logistics optimization also helps to reduce fossil fuel consumption by avoiding empty runs, for example.

**In short, engineers, logisticians and managers all have a role to play in greening the transport sector without giving up on profit optimization for all that.**





## THE DIGITAL MARKETS ACT : NORMS REVOLUTION & FREE COMPETITION

**Last March 24th, the European Commission approved the establishment of the Digital Markets Act. After less than 1,5 years of negotiations, it is a feat of efficiency for Europe, usually criticized for its slowness. This text provides a strict regulation of "gatekeepers", for free competition. Customs Bridge explains to you why this step forward is crucial for the sector and for the Union.**

The Digital Markets Act is a text that plans to **regulate the action of digital giants** by assigning them to **European standards**. In concrete terms, platforms qualified as "gatekeepers" and meeting certain conditions (as the achievement of an annual turnover of at least €7.5 billion) will have to **offer more freedom to their users**:

No more excessive exploitation of monopolies, imposition of search engines or applications, incompatibility of messaging services, pressure to be listed in app stores, recovery of user data without their explicit consent, etc...

The objective is to **restore fair competition against the American digital conglomerates**, especially for European SMEs that had to meet the requirements of their platforms.

To enforce this directive, the commission plans to hit hard. Indeed, fines of **up to 10% of the global GDP of companies**, 20% in case of recidivism, are planned. Thus, record fines might be inflicted in years to come.



The regulation, which should be implemented in the next four months, occurs in the context of an overwhelming rise in power of the **GAFAMs** (*Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft*) : Microsoft's market capitalization having for instance reached \$2,500 billion last January, **the equivalent of the French GDP!**

After the semi-failure of the GAFA tax and the inability of the United States to regulate their own digital companies, **this text revolutionizes the control of these powerful groups.**

Although the Commission has appointed a committee of experts to enforce this measure, it will have to **face the lobbying of the digital giants**, who have much to lose. Whistle the DMA is a great achievement on its own, it must be well-respected and controlled for Europe to assert itself as a normative power. **The next few months will therefore be crucial for the future of the European model.**



## CUSTOMS : TWO WEEKS AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF CULTURAL GOODS

From May 17 to 24, the General Directorate of Customs and Excise organized **two weeks against the trafficking of cultural goods**.

The aim of this event was to promote the role of customs in the protection of heritage and the fight against trafficking in cultural goods.



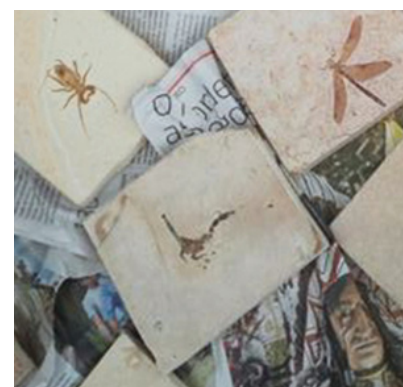
*Bronze with human head in front. Head on the left, the neck decorated with a torque; in front, three rings. AMBIANI (Amiens region), circa 60-30/25 BC.*

This Fortnight was organized around 2 highlights:

1- The handing over to the National Archaeology Museum of St-Germain en Laye of 22 Gallic coins seized by Roissy in 2018.

2 - The handover to the Brazilian authorities of **fossils seized in 2013** and currently stored in a warehouse in Le Havre.

This "Cultural Goods Fortnight" had several objectives: Raising awareness and better communication on customs skills and results as well as highlighting customs actors and partners.



*Fossils of a small reptile from the late primary era, whose fossilized specimens are found only in the Brazilian state of Parana.*

## THE EU REVOKES BTIS THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH CERTAIN DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE LAST WCO HS COMMITTEES.

A communication from the European Commission published in the OJEU C 193 of 12.5.2022 informs of the **immediate revocation of Binding Tariff Information** that is not in conformity with certain latest decisions of the World Customs Organization.

Customs authorities revoke Binding Tariff Information decisions as of today if they become **inconsistent with the interpretation of the customs nomenclature** as it results from the following international tariff measures:

- Classification decisions,
- classification opinions,
- amendments to the Explanatory Notes to the Harmonized System of Nomenclature, Description, and Coding of Goods, adopted by the Customs Cooperation Council (report of the 67<sup>e</sup> session of the HS Committee - and No. NC2855 - report of the 68<sup>e</sup> session of the HS Committee).