

# TRADE OBSERVER

The official monthly update by CustomsBridge  
August 2022

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Cybersecurity &  
customs



**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & CYBERSECURITY :  
BENEFIT OR THREAT ?**

**BENIN ACCELERATES THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION  
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## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & CYBERSECURITY : BENEFIT OR THREAT ?

**Cyberattacks targeting businesses, large and small, are made public almost weekly. The number of these attacks has exploded since 2019, and flexible and remote working options have not made things any better.**

Since the pandemic, nearly every business has been forced to open up their networks and systems to operate remotely. On average, over **61% of companies have implemented home office for all employees by 2021**. Therefore, in the current situation of increasing digital transformation, cybersecurity awareness has become an absolute necessity.

According to Cesium's latest Corporate Cybersecurity Barometer, released in January, nearly **54% of companies report experiencing at least one cyberattack in 2021**. The most common attack vectors remain phishing (73%), the exploitation of vulnerabilities (53%) and "the president scam" (38%).



Beyond simply customizing phishing techniques, **hackers are increasingly using Artificial Intelligence to make their operations more effective**. AI can make fake emails more believable, both in the words used and in the turns of phrase so that they resemble the wording and writing style of a company executive, for example. AI can also make spelling mistakes and rough translations non-existent.

Cybersecurity experts, as well, are using artificial intelligence to combat these new types of attacks. AI can evaluate huge amounts of data and can easily and quickly detect anomalous behavior. It can also determine risk profiles, that's to say, the trend of an individual to click on a dangerous link based on his or her digital behavior.

Artificial intelligence is therefore a double-edged sword. It can be beneficial in many areas, including cybersecurity. But it can also pose a threat. As a result, cybersecurity professionals must constantly develop new, modern defenses to thwart the innovations of hackers...





## BENIN ACCELERATES THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF ITS CUSTOMS

**It is no longer a secret that digital transformation is a crucial step towards a much more efficient customs system. The question is rather which path to take to get there. We will see that Artificial Intelligence-based solutions are one of the most reliable options.**

Since 2016, the Beninese government has aimed to make Benin the digital service platform of West Africa. Benin has therefore opted for a **new customs system based on Artificial Intelligence** to consolidate all documents related to customs processes.

To achieve its goal, Benin has created various structures such as the Agency for Digital Development (ADN), the Agency for Information Services and Systems (ASSI) and the National Agency for Information Systems Security (ANSSI Benin). Last June, the Beninese government merged these three structures and founded the Agency of Information Systems and Digital (ASIN).

To become **one of the most technologically advanced trading environments** in the region, Benin turned to a solution that had already helped it to establish a Foreign Trade Single Window (electronic goods tracking platform) in the past. As a result, Benin chose to use an AI-based solution for its new customs system.



### **Operating a modern and efficient customs system is critical to trade.**

The Beninese government has therefore opted for a fully integrated trade approach that links all major trade platforms such as single window services, port community systems, electronic cargo tracking solutions, and customs systems.

With this system, the government's desire to make Benin a model platform for simplified and transparent customs clearance procedures has quickly become a reality. Within the framework of a fruitful partnership with the entire industrial, commercial and logistical community, Customs is committed to supporting all economic actors.

## HOW DO I CALCULATE THE CUSTOMS VALUE OF MY GOODS?

**If you are exporting or importing goods, you need to know one fundamental concept: the customs value. The customs value, the tariff species and the origin of the goods are the three pillars of customs and allow calculating the import duties.**

- **The customs nomenclature:** code assigned to all goods
- **The origin :** Precision on the country of manufacture of the goods or the country of obtaining of the products. Imperative in the customs declaration.
- **The customs value:** determined to collect customs duties.

Let's talk about the customs value and essentially the bases:

### WHAT IS THE CUSTOMS VALUE?

The customs value is the value used to calculate the duties and taxes related to the transaction during an import-export operation. Its estimation is based on precise and harmonized rules at the European Union level.

There are several methods for determining the customs value defined in articles 70 to 74 of the CDU, specified by articles 128 to 144 of the Implementing Regulation (IR). However, there are different methods of determination depending on the type of operation: import or export.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CUSTOMS VALUE?

The customs value allows the importer to determine the duties and taxes applied to his product. This includes customs duties, VAT or anti-dumping duties for example.

For exports, the customs value determines the basis for certain duties and collects the data necessary to establish foreign trade statistics.

### HOW IS IT CALCULATED?

The calculation of the customs value is based on the transaction value of the product, i.e., the price actually paid for the goods when they are sold for export from the customs territory of the Union. Occasionally, this transaction value may be reduced or increased by certain charges listed in Articles 71 and 72 of the CDU.

Otherwise, it is determined, by applying the secondary methods defined in Article 74 of the CDU, to re-establish the real value of the goods.



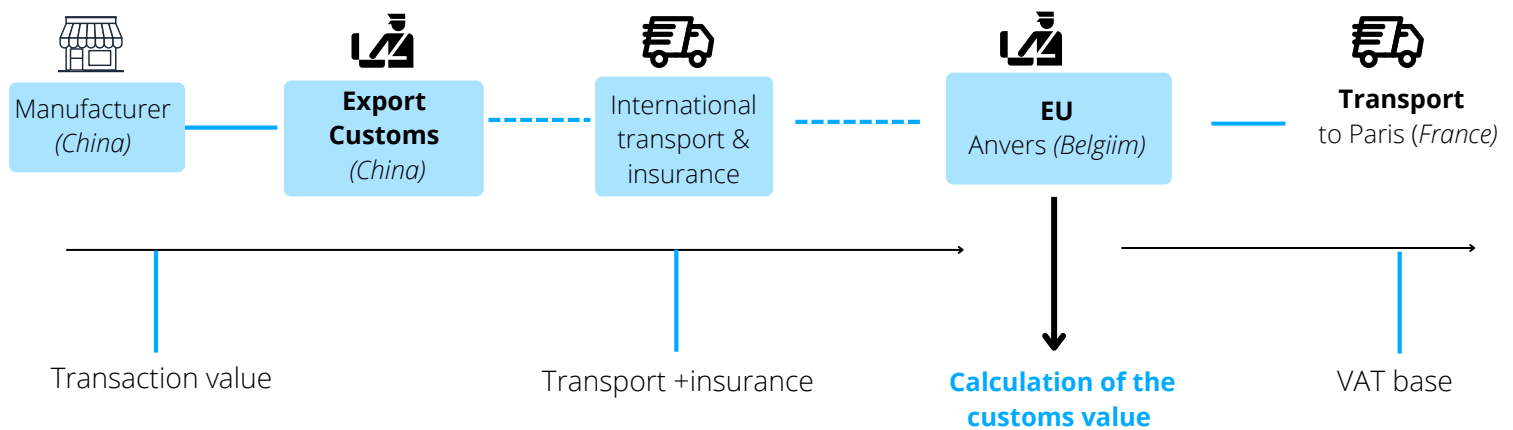
## HOW DO I CALCULATE THE CUSTOMS VALUE OF MY GOODS?

### Examples of costs to be added:

- Transportation and insurance costs,
- Royalty and license fees,
- Commissions on sale,
- ...

### Examples of costs to be added:

- Transport costs of post carriage, hence the importance of the incoterms
- Costs related to the right to reproduce the imported goods in the EU



**The VAT is calculated on the value of the imported products** and on the post-carriage costs and other possible costs, and is paid to the DGFIP under the conditions provided for by the General Tax Code, in particular through the filing of the CA3 declaration.

*Please note that the VAT also considers the main transport and the insurance.*

*Please keep in mind the purchase incoterm which is important in the calculation of the customs value.*

## YOUR MONTHLY CUSTOMS MONITORING

### Increased traffic on the Suez Canal

The Suez Canal has recorded an increase of more than 20% in passenger tolls over the last 12 months. A 15.4% increase in passengers in the first quarter alone despite a 5-10% increase in tolls. The international crises have demonstrated the importance of the Suez Canal to the stability of global supply chains.

### GSP: Suspension of tariff preferences for 2023

Some tariff preferences for certain GSP beneficiary countries will be suspended from 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023. This means that for some products, no more tariff preferences. Countries concerned: INDIA / INDONESIA / KENYA.

In the notice to importers mentioned above, you will find the list of products. You must then refer to Regulation 978 /2012, to find the correspondence by chapter of the products concerned. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1039 of 29/06/2022 - OJ L 173 of 30. 0 6.2022\*

### The WCO NR 98 magazine has just been published

The NR 98 /2022 magazine has just been published. You can find a panel on the actions of the customs at the international level, but also various questions and answers on the HS.

#### ITRADE OBSERVER INFO



Next month, on the occasion of **CustomsBridge's anniversary**, we are producing a collaborative edition of the Trade Observer.

So if you want to share your expertise on a subject related to customs, innovation or supplychain, offer us your pen and participate in the writing of an article that will be integrated in the next issue.

Let us know in a comment on our [linkedin page](#) !

