

# Single European Customs = ETN Common Access Point

**Although Europe is a single market, transporting goods across borders still generates a heavy administrative workload and complex paperwork. Often, various agencies in different countries are involved and international traders need to liaise with a number of corresponding Customs offices.**

EurTradeNet is a Europe-wide network of expert Customs-related service providers (CRSP) that has developed a common digital framework called a Common Access Point (CAP) that enables customers to submit electronic customs procedures to different national customs administrations. Until now, there has never been a single window to customs administration in Europe, ETN now provides a service for addressing companies' needs today.

EurTradeNet pursues the use of the local ETN partner service to serve as a point of entry to all EC countries national customs administrations. This approach has many advantages, from the adapted interface to the user location (language, data, documentation, ...), as well as professional support available in local language and an 'always on' provision of service.

The essence is in the distributed nature of the ETN network. When customers work in more than one country with Eurtradenet, they are using a locally-adapted, certified application that enables access to European customs administration procedures.

# Common Access Point with a Unified Customs Dataset

Since National Customs administrations require the 'same' data but with some crucial differences, EurTradeNet uses a unified structure for information exchange between partners, customers and administrations.

With the use of the UIDS (Unified Interface Data Structure) common dataset, declarations can be codified and sent through the ETN backbone to any other partner that simply adapts it to the receiving country local format and submits it in proper form.

This commonality also makes UIDS invaluable as a translation interface between your corporate data and systems and the EurTradeNet CAP system. Since enterprises have very specific data representation, the UIDS module can be added to your company's Corporate system to enable you to exchange information with your local EurTradeNet partner. Your local partner will use UIDS to translate and adapt your data to the required format for the country it is going to and will act as a bridge between your company's systems and the ETN network backbone.

UIDS has been designed to support ETN services and is built with XML (eXtensible Markup Language) technologies and Internet standards that make it easy to integrate into a company's IT and ERP systems.

UIDS has been constructed and programmed to develop with any future changes and can integrate applications and telecommunications from other non-ETN providers, even from other software developers and solutions integrators.