

# SLOVENIAN CUSTOMS IN 2012 (Annual Report Summary)

## INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL



Dear readers!

When the time for annual report comes, we frequently ask ourselves, whether a year is really around. However, during review of events and achievements of the past year we discover that a lot can be done in a seemingly short period of time. The 2012 annual report of the Slovenian Customs Administration confirms that.

In 2012, most time and energy of the Slovenian Customs were devoted to re-organisation because of Croatia's joining European Union, and to the mergence of the Customs Administration and the Tax Administration into a new Finance Administration. Nevertheless, the chapters on the major events and novelties are comprehensive and bear witness to creative momentum in the customs service. At this point I do not want to highlight any special event or achievement as each contributes to the image of our work shown in the report.

I believe that the publication *Slovenska carina v letu 2012* provides solid information about the complexity and diversity of the work of the Slovenian Customs, an indicator of importance of our work and a proof of effectiveness of the customs service. I thank all my colleagues for their contribution to the results of our joint efforts.

Rajko Skubic  
Director-General of the Customs Administration  
of the Republic of Slovenia

## MISSION AND GOALS

The Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia is a modern European customs administration which, within the single European customs area, has successfully protected economic flows and the lives and health of the people of Slovenia by preventing illegal imports of products and substances. The Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia exercises control over imports and exports and the international supply chain, maintaining a balance between the safety, protection and financial interests of Slovenia and the EU, on the one hand, and the increased competitiveness of the economy, on the other.

The tasks of the Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia are:

- customs and excise control of goods and customs clearance of goods,
- assessment, calculation and collection of import, export and other duties, environmental taxes and excise duties,
- customs inspections, preliminary and follow-up controls in companies doing business with customs
- prevention and detection of customs and excise offenses and other criminal offences,
- control of admission, removal and transit of goods subject to special measures due to interests of the safety and protection of the health and lives of people, animals, plants, environmental protection, as well as protection of the cultural heritage and intellectual property,
- control of the registration of admission and removal of domestic and foreign means of payment,
- collection of statistical data on the exchange of goods between EU Member States,
- implementation of foreign trade and common agricultural policy measures,
- implementation of EU regulations and international treaties in the field of work of the Customs Administration.

We endeavour to provide professional support and develop efficient cooperation with companies and nationals of Slovenia and the EU. By increasing the share of electronic operations, simplified procedures, introduction of the most advanced information technologies and work methods, we make it possible for ourselves and the domestic economy to improve operations and reduce costs. Customs services for companies are provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. All the required procedures are carried out on company premises, and the goods no longer need to be brought to customs terminals. Each company can load or unload goods anywhere in Slovenia and submit documents anywhere it wants regardless of territorial competence. This strategic goal has been attained by the parallel introduction of computer supported processes (automated import system, automated export system, Slovenian transit system), a decisive programme of involvement of companies in simplified house clearance procedures and by providing information to the public and the economy, in particular importers and exporters. In addition to e-business, we try to reduce time for carrying out the customs procedures with the customs declaration. The customs clearance time for imports and exports in event of checking goods has been reduced an average of five minutes.

When performing its responsibilities regarding the control on EU external borders and ensuring the supply chain security, the Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, like other EU customs administrations, promotes the society protection as well as international trade facilitation. Some major emphases are, as follows:

- to secure and protect inhabitants and environment;
- to safeguard financial interests of EU and its member states;
- to support legal trade activities and at the same time fight against unfair and illicit trading;
- to contribute to increased competitiveness of the European trade by using modern work methods based on easily accessible e-customs environment, particularly by selectivity methods, system controls, AEO status and single window;
- to develop human resources along with permanent training, career guidance and organisation development.

## WHO WE ARE

The Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia is an administrative body within the Ministry of Finance. Its head offices are located at Šmartinska cesta 55, Ljubljana. The tasks and organization of the Customs Administration are governed by the Customs Service Act.

The Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia consists of eleven customs directorates: the General Customs Directorate, Brežice Customs Directorate, Celje Customs Directorate, Dravograd Customs Directorate, Jesenice Customs Directorate, Koper Customs Directorate, Ljubljana Customs Directorate, Maribor Customs Directorate, Murska Sobota Customs Directorate, Nova Gorica Customs Directorate and Sežana Customs Directorate. With the exception of the General Customs Directorate, the customs directorates are divided into sections and are responsible for their own customs offices and border crossings. The Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia and the General Customs Directorate are headed by the Director-General, the customs directorates by their respective directors.

The Customs Service Day is marked on 8 October. On that day in 1991, customs officials took over customs control of the border with Croatia and thus the entire territory of the newly formed Republic of Slovenia.

As of 31 December 2012, the Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia employed a staff of 1,588.

In 2012, the Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia collected a total of EUR 2,538 million for the requirements of the national budget, budgets of individual municipalities and indirectly for the EU budget. Compared to 2011, the collected income increased by almost 4 %.

Excise duties, value added tax on imports, environmental taxes, taxes on international trade and other duties to a total of EUR 2,504 million were then paid into the national budget, which accounted for 31.8 % of the total income of the budget of the Republic of Slovenia. The amount of the collected duties paid into the national budget increased by 4.3 % compared to the year 2011.

Due to the introduction of the environmental tax on air pollution caused by the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> on fuels in July 2012, the highest increase in comparison with the previous year took place in the area of environmental taxes. In 2012, the Customs Administration collected 2.5 times more environmental taxes on air pollution caused by CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from liquid fuels than in 2011.

Excise duties (61 %) accounted for the largest share of net income. The amount of excise duties increased almost by 7 % compared to the previous year. The sum of traditional own resources paid into the EU budget amounted to EUR 65 million in 2012.

In 2012, there were a total of 754,938 declarations submitted, with over 2,191,653 goods items received.

In 2012, the Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia carried out 1,716 inspections and follow-up controls in companies in which the decisions for subsequent payment were issued in total amount of EUR 6,201,592. In 2012, 33 customs investigations were completed, 31 criminal charges brought, 636 offence decisions and 9,471 payment orders were issued.

In recovery proceedings of tax claims of the Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia the total successfully collected sum amounted to EUR 264,425.60. Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia also collected non-tax claims of other claimants that amounted to EUR 10.8 million which is a 388 % increase compared to the year 2011.