



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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Trade facilitation, Rules of Origin and International coordination: Americas, Africa, Far East and South Asia, Oceania

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**NOTE TO THE DELEGATES OF MEMBER STATES IN THE
 CUSTOMS EXPERT GROUP - ORIGIN SECTION**

Subject: 13th meeting of the CEG-ORI. Item 2.4. "Electronic issuance of movement certificates (A.TR, EUR.1, EUR-MED) by Turkey – Information point". Absence of signature. Summary of conclusions

Under the item in subject, the CEG-ORI discussed the issue of the absence of signature of the issuing authority on certificates issued electronically in Turkey and subsequently printed out to be used by importers in the EU to claim preferential treatment.

The conclusions of the discussion were the following:

- non-signed certificates cannot be accepted in the current state of the law;
- QR Codes affixed on certificates cannot be considered as 'signature' within the meaning of the provisions in force (in addition, Member States noted that reading a QR code is currently not feasible in a short term in a number of EU customs offices; this would require the purchase of appropriate equipment);
- Member States' customs authorities will send back non-signed certificates presented to them to the competent Turkish authorities, in order for those certificates to be signed or replaced by signed ones;
- TAXUD will notify Turkish Customs of these conclusions and invite them to find appropriate solutions for the signature of certificates; certificates not bearing a signature will not be accepted in the EU;
- an acceptable way for signing certificates could be that Turkey adapts its electronic system to insert a signature (facsimile) in the certificates, as it is already done for the stamp, assuming that the security of the system would prevent forgery;
- pending such technical solution Turkey should either find a way to sign electronic certificates or issue only manual certificates (which may still be used during a transition period ending on 31.12.2018).

Jean-Michel Grave