

FROM TEXT TO PRACTICE

Marking the first anniversary of the Vilnius Manifesto

14

OCTOBER 2026

Liège

Aula Magnum, Université de Liège

SIX PILLARS
of the Vilnius
Manifesto

I
Unified

II
Cooperative

III
Simplified

IV
Digitised

V
Resilient

VI
Professionally
Competent

FOUR WORKSTREAMS

1 Trust & Check and
the import process

2 Risk management

3 Data Hub

4 EUCA acts and
special procedures

08:15 Welcome and coffee

09:00 **Opening & framing:** presentation of the Liège Declaration of the Manifesto signatories
Walter Van der Meiren

09:15 **Welcome address:** University of Liège
Prof. Marc Bourgeois, Dean, Faculty of Law, Political Science and Criminology

09:25 **Keynote address:** the Walloon Government
Pierre-Yves Jeholet, Vice-President of the Walloon Government and Minister of Economy, Industry, Employment, Training, Research and Digital

09:35 **Keynote:** the EU customs code reform and the six pillars of the Vilnius Manifesto
Matthias Petschke, Director, DG TAXUD (Customs)

09:50 **Keynote:** digital implementation, the EU Customs Data Hub and the role of TARIC
Philippe Duponteil, Director, DG TAXUD (Digital Delivery of Customs and Taxation Policies)

10:05 **Keynote:** the Irish Presidency's priorities and next steps on customs reform
Enda Ryan, Third Secretary (Customs), Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU, for the Irish Presidency

10:20 Coffee break

10:50 **ACADEMIC SECTION**
Opening: **Prof. Hans-Michael Wolffgang**

10:55 **Roundtable 1** The role of academia in the training and education of trusted operators
Moderated by **Prof. Hans-Michael Wolffgang**
Frank Heijmann · **Michele Perolat** DG TAXUD · TBC · **Prof. Christopher Dalimore** AWA · **Yves Melin** LL.M.

11:40 **Roundtable 2** Research in customs law: the delegation of powers to the Commission and the Commission's implementing powers, and other research topics relevant to the reform
Moderated by **Yves Melin**
Prof. Hans-Michael Wolffgang · **Valérian Fabry** ULiège · other PhD researchers and academics working on customs

12:25 Synthesis and draft academic recommendations

12:35 Lunch

13:50 **TRADE SECTION**
Moderator: **Walter Van der Meiren**

13:55 **Roundtable 1** **WORKSTREAMS 3 & 4** The EU Customs Data Hub and EUCA: making customs reform work for ports and logistics
Introduced by the Permanent Representation of France:
Luis Fernandez
Paul Grobler ETN · **Laurent Jossart** Liège Airport · **Katalin Skram** EEA · **Damian Viccars** WSC · TBC

14:40 **Roundtable 2** **WORKSTREAMS 1 & 2** Trust & Check and the import process; risk management: the operational perspective
Introduced by the Permanent Representation of Belgium:
Clara Van Hemelrijck
Pablo Muniz AmCham EU · **Tom De Ridder** BusinessEurope · **Dimitri Serafimoff** CLECAT · **Michael Lux** Customs Attorney

15:25 Synthesis and draft recommendations

15:35 Coffee break

16:05 **KPHub:** its urgency in the age of technology and AI
Introduced by the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands:
Frank Heijmann
Enrika Naujoke LCPA · **Godfried Smit** ESC · **Massimo de Gregorio** CONFIAD · **Martin Reuter** EUCAB

16:50 **Teloneum Aureum:** inaugural award ceremony
Presented by **Laurent Jossart**, CEO, Liège Airport, and **Kristian Vanderwaeren**, DG Belgian Customs (TBC)

17:00 **Closing remarks and next steps**
Prof. Marc Bourgeois, Dean, Faculty of Law, Political Science and Criminology

17:15 **Evening reception**



INAUGURAL AWARD

Teloneum Aureum

THE GOLDEN TOLL

Teloneum is the Latin word for toll: the charge once levied where goods crossed a city gate, a bridge or a border. The Teloneum Aureum turns that old symbol of the customs frontier into a mark of honour, awarded for the first time in Liège to one individual for outstanding public service in customs.

CEREMONY

16:50, Aula Magnum

Laurent Jossart, Liège Airport; Kristian Vanderwaeren, Belgian Customs (TBC)

ONE AWARD

One individual

For excellence in the public service of customs

THE TROPHY

Brass disc on Belgian black marble

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customsbag.eu/#register

€150 per delegate, VAT included; free for the first delegate of each Vilnius Manifesto signatory organisation.



CONVENED BY

Customs Business Academia Group (cBAG) with the Faculty of Law, University of Liège
customsbag.eu

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WITH THE SUPPORT OF



Programme and speakers as of 20 September 2026 · subject to change