



OVERVIEW

The Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) service provides customs authorities with monitoring of ports and beaches for the departure of specific ships of interest, and for the detection of abnormal behaviour that may be related to transshipment of goods from larger vessel to smaller ones.

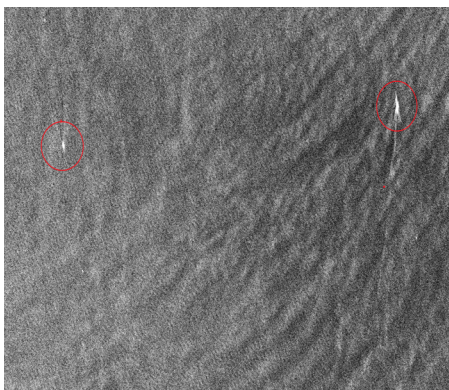


Customs authorities aim to ensure that legitimate trade can flow freely, whilst preventing trafficking and smuggling, and import of illegal or dangerous goods. Customs authorities are interested in monitoring key links in the goods supply chain, such as the transport and entry of such goods into the EU. The quantity of goods entering the EU is immense – EU customs services handle nearly 16% of total world trade, handling imports and exports worth over €3,400 billion every year, most of which has been transported by sea. Customs authorities check almost 1,800 million tonnes of ship cargo per year, compared with 20 million tonnes of air cargo¹. Satellite image and related value-added products reinforce

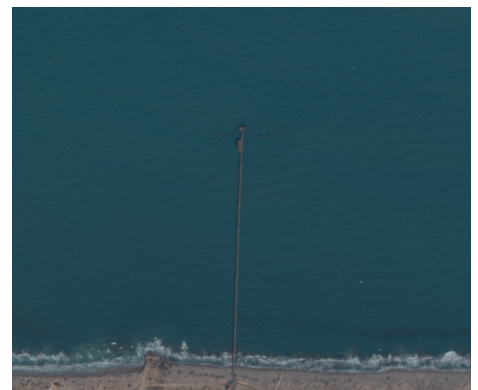
custom authorities' capacity to maintain oversight of goods transported at sea, and particularly to detect and intervene when criminal activity is suspected. It is difficult to estimate how many millions of euros are lost each year in unpaid duties from illegal imports.² Even more worrying is the transport of dangerous cargo into the EU, including firearms and ammunition, explosives, drugs, counterfeit goods, unsafe products, cash and even protected wildlife species. With so many of these items passing through criminal maritime networks, authorities are keen to use the most advanced technologies available to monitor what happens at sea.



Customs authorities intercept sailboat



Suspicious vessels detected in SAR images



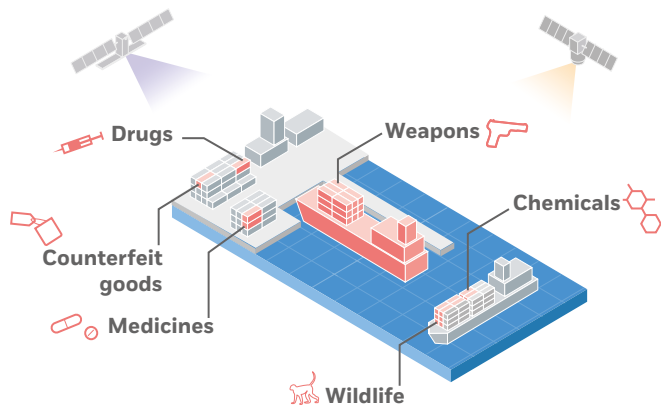
Surveillance of vessels in remote locations



OVERVIEW

CMS SUPPORTS CUSTOMS THROUGH:

- detection of potentially suspicious vessels involved in trafficking or smuggling of goods
- monitoring of ship-to-ship transfers
- early warning and identification of criminal trafficking and smuggling.



EU trade

90% of international trade and
40% of internal EU trade is maritime



Port of Barcelona, Spain

emsa.europa.eu/copernicus

Get in touch for more information

Copernicus Maritime Surveillance

[Twitter CopernicusCMS](#) / copernicus@emsa.europa.eu

Copernicus

[Twitter CopernicusEU](#) / [Facebook Copernicus EU](#)

European Maritime Safety Agency

Praça Europa 4
1249-206 Lisboa Portugal

Tel +351 21 1209 200 / Fax +351 21 1209 210
emsa.europa.eu / [Twitter EMSA_LISBON](#)

REFERENCES

¹'The European Union Explained: Customs' - https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/50-years-eu-customs-union_en

² In 2016, €537 million in unpaid duties were detected. https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/50-years-eu-customs-union_en

CREDITS

© European Maritime Safety Agency 2020

Image credits in order of appearance: © (2020) European Space Imaging/DigitalGlobe, a Maxar Company; Agencia Estatal de Administración Tributaria (AEAT); © DLR e.V. (2018), Distribution Airbus DS Geo GmbH; © (2020) European Space Imaging/DigitalGlobe, a Maxar Company; © DLR e.V.(2019), Distribution Airbus Defence and Space GmbH.