



Brussels, 18 September 2026

EFFECTIVE CBAM REQUIRES EMPOWERED CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) addresses greenhouse gas emissions embedded in imported goods with the dual objective of preventing carbon leakage and encouraging emissions reductions by third-country producers.

As sectors covered by CBAM, we have consistently called for a robust and watertight implementation of the mechanism for both imports and exports, with obligations that fully mirror the EU ETS rules applicable to European operators. We have underlined the importance of accurate reporting, effective traceability of CBAM goods, and a high degree of transparency throughout the supply chain. Ongoing legislative initiatives seek to close existing loopholes, prevent circumvention practices, and further strengthen the effectiveness of CBAM.

We will continue to engage constructively with the European Commission, Member States, National Competent Authorities and customs administrations to support the effective implementation of CBAM and stand ready to cooperate with authorities by providing technical expertise. The success and credibility of the mechanism ultimately depend on robust enforcement at national level.

We therefore call on Member States to equip their customs authorities with the necessary resources, expertise, powers and operational tools to effectively enforce CBAM requirements. Adequate staffing, specialised training, access to relevant information, and close coordination between customs authorities and National Competent Authorities are essential to ensure accurate verification, detect non-compliance, prevent circumvention and guarantee a level playing field.

Without sufficient enforcement capacity and empowerment of national customs authorities, CBAM risks falling short of its objectives. We urge Member States to make CBAM enforcement a priority and to ensure that customs administrations are fully prepared to carry out their critical role in safeguarding the integrity and effectiveness of the mechanism.
