



# Press Release

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## **IBAC Hails European Customs Decision on Private vs. Commercial Use for Non-EU Business Aircraft**

**Montreal, Canada 02 December 2014** – The International Business Aviation Council (IBAC) welcomes new guidance issued by the European Customs Code Committee on the temporary admission treatment of third country (non-European Union (EU)) business aircraft. The document posted to the Web site of the European Commission DG-Taxation and Customs Union is an important step forward in clarifying definitions of “private” vs. “commercial” use and provides clarity on the availability to non-EU business aircraft operators of conditional relief under temporary admission customs procedures when operating to, from, and within Europe.

“The guidance offers clear information on when business aircraft are eligible for temporary admission. We are grateful to the Commission and the Customs Code Committee for carefully considering the matter that IBAC raised to them and that had resulted in additional costs to business aircraft operators flying to Europe,” said Kurt Edwards, IBAC Director General. The document provides a case-by-case opinion of the Customs Code Committee regarding various scenarios that non-EU business aircraft operators face when flying to, from, and within the EU.

Due to differences in interpretations among customs officials from one Member State to another, many operators believed that full importation into the EU was the only option available in order to operate flight legs within the EU. Such action is inconsistent with the World Customs Organization Istanbul Convention on Temporary Admission and EU regulations. The Committee’s opinion clearly notes several common scenarios under which full importation and, therefore, the costs associated with it are unnecessary.

“The new guidance will be immensely helpful to business aircraft operators. It will allow them to fully benefit from temporary admission afforded under EU regulations and the Istanbul Convention at no added cost when flying to Europe,” said Terry Yeomans, Director of IBAC’s International Standard for Business Aviation Handling Programme.

The guidance document can be [found at this link](#) at the European Commission Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union Web page.

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IBAC represents the interests of business aviation worldwide. IBAC is a non-profit international trade association with permanent observer status at the International Civil Aviation Organization, the UN Specialized Agency for aviation matters, in Montreal, Canada. [www.ibac.org](http://www.ibac.org)