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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.5.2026)

The Commission agrees that the proper functioning of crossing points at the EU's external borders is of crucial importance. While the organisation of customs controls and the overall performance of the border crossing points are a responsibility of EU Member States, the Commission is open to considering leveraging existing monitoring tools (such as diagnostic studies carried out by its operational customs expert teams) to collect further information.

Cooperation at all levels within the EU is very important and the Commission is in regular contact with all EU Customs Administrations, including Greek Customs, to ensure a strong and performing Customs Union. The recently agreed reform of the EU Customs Union should also contribute to this goal.

There are several EU programmes under the current Multiannual Financial Framework offering funding opportunities to Member States seeking to reinforce their capabilities at border crossing points. These include the Integrated Border Management Fund, which is made of two components, i.e. i) the Border Management and Visa Instrument¹ (within its specific scope of border management and visa policy), and ii) the Customs Control Equipment Instrument² providing financial support for purchasing and upgrading customs tools; as well as the Customs Programme³ supporting the development and operation of the central digital systems for customs, and the cooperation between customs authorities. Additional support is provided by the Internal Security Fund⁴, the Technical Support Instrument⁵, the Union Anti-Fraud Programme⁶ and the Connecting Europe Facility⁷. Potential beneficiaries are regularly informed of upcoming funding opportunities.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, p. 48.

² Regulation (EU) 2021/1077 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the instrument for financial support for customs control equipment, OJ L 234, 2.7.2021, p. 1.

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/444 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2021 establishing the Customs programme for cooperation in the field of customs and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1294/2013, OJ L 87, 15.3.2021, p. 1.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Internal Security Fund, OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, p. 94.

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 February 2021 establishing a Technical Support Instrument, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 1.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/785 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Union Anti-Fraud Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 250/2014, OJ L 172, 17.5.2021, p. 110.

⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014 (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L 249, 14.7.2021, pp. 38.