

EU-15 - Statistics of cigarette seizures as per April 2004:

Total quantities of cigarettes in master cases seized in the EU-15 Member States in:

2003 (excluding the UK)	161.232 master cases (= 1.612.320.000 cigarettes)
2002 (excluding the UK)	228.647 (2.286.470.000 cigarettes)
2001 (excluding the UK)	309.091 (3.090.910.000 cigarettes)
2000	623.250 (6.232.500.000 cigarettes)
1999	569.010 (5.690.100.000 cigarettes)
1998	471.935 (4.719.350.000 cigarettes)

Customs duties represent around 12.5% of the total amount of duties and taxes on cigarettes in the EU.

1.000 master cases of cigarettes (a full 40 foot container) represents an average of **1.500.000 €** in duties and taxes, but it is obviously higher in, for example, the UK and lower in, for example, Spain and Portugal.

The total amount of cigarettes seized in 2003 (excluding the United Kingdom) is 161.232 master cases.

Total amount of Customs duties on these cigarettes is around € **30.000.000**

The current excise duty rates and VAT rates can be found on the DG TAXUD internet site:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/publications/info_doc/info_doc.htm#duty-rates