

# EU enlargement - tobacco restrictions for the New Member States: information for travellers

On 1 January 2007, two countries, Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union (EU).

On 1 May 2004, ten countries - Cyprus\*, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Malta, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia joined the EU.

\*Though the whole of Cyprus is part of the EU, goods from any areas of Cyprus not under effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus are treated as non-EU imports.

From these dates travellers from these countries do not pay any UK tax or duty on excise goods they have bought tax and duty paid in these countries for own use. **BUT THERE ARE SPECIAL RULES FOR CIGARETTES AND SOME OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS FROM SOME EU COUNTRIES.**

## Tobacco restrictions for ten Member States

The UK is maintaining limits on the amount of cigarettes and some tobacco products that travellers are able to bring in to the UK for own use from ten Member States, without paying UK duty.

The limits are:

- Estonia - 200 cigarettes **or** 250g of smoking tobacco.
- Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia - 200 cigarettes.

Anyone who is carrying more than the limits should pay UK duty on those goods by entering the Customs red channel or by using the red point telephone. If travellers enter the Customs blue channel with more than the limits, then all of their tobacco may be seized.