



Council of Ministers

Expenditure authorisation for the Tax Agency for a mobile vehicle scanning system

- Intended for the detection of contraband tobacco and other prohibited goods

3 August 2012.- The Council of Ministers has authorized the State Tax Administration Agency to acquire expenditure commitments for future years intended for the maintenance of a mobile system for scanning vehicles charged to the Customs department, in order to enhance the detection of contraband tobacco and other prohibited goods, significantly improving the number of inspections.

In recent years there has been a sharp increase in tobacco smuggling activities in our country, motivated by the situation of economic crisis and by rising prices. In response to this situation, the Customs Department of the Tax Office has launched a large number of actions in order to control and reduce cigarette smuggling. In this sense, the mobile vehicle scanning system to be acquired will act as an additional tool, permitting a large number of inspections of private vehicles to be done quickly and nimbly.

The intensity of the system is sixteen times lower than container scanners and therefore can be used as mobile inspection equipment, as the radiation protection requirements are much lower. Noteworthy among its benefits are versatility (the system can be used in different points of entry: land borders, ports or airports), mobility and unpredictability (it can be installed in different locations depending on the needs, without knowing a priori in which particular spot the inspections will be done) and deterrence (as a result of the above features, the use of the system will produce an increase of the deterrent effect).

