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National Trade Facilitation Committees & WTO TFA

Mario Apostolov
Regional Adviser, UNECE Trade Facilitation
mario.apostolov@unece.org



History of Trade Facilitation in the WTO

**Second WTO
Ministerial
Conference**

**Singapore
issues**

**General
Council**

**July
Package**

**Bali Package:
«froze» the
text of the
Agreement**



**The WTO TF
Agreement
entered into force
when 2/3 of WTO
Members (111 out
of 164)
ratified it**



1996

2004

**7 Dec.
2013**

**22 Feb.
2017**

Measures in the Agreement

Transparency measures	Fees and procedures	Transit and organizational issues
Art. 1.1. Publication of laws, procedures, etc.	Art. 6.1. General Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation	Art. 11. Freedom of Transit
Art. 1.2. Information available through internet	Art. 6.2. Specific disciplines on Fees and Charges	Art. 12. Customs Cooperation
Art. 1.3. Enquiry Points	Art. 6.3. Penalty Disciplines	Art. 23. Institutional arrangements: Committee on Trade Facilitation
Art. 1.4. Notification	Art. 7. Release and Clearance of Goods Art. 7.1 Pre-arrival Processing Art. 7.2. Electronic Payment	
Art. 2. Opportunity to comment and information before entry into force & consultation	Art. 7.4. Risk Management	
Art. 3. Advance rulings	Art. 7.5. Post-clearance Audit	
Art. 4. Appeal or review procedures	Art. 7.6. Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times	
Art. 5.1. Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections	Art. 7.7. Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators	
Art. 5. 2. Detention	Art. 7.8. Expedited Shipments	
Art. 5. 3. Test procedures	Art. 7.9. Perishable Goods	
	Art. 8. Border Agency Cooperation	
	Art. 9. Movement of Goods under Customs Control Intended for Import	
	Art. 10.1. Formalities and Documentation Requirements	
	Art. 10.2. Acceptance of Copies	
	Art. 10.3. Use of International Standards	
	Art. 10.4. Single Window	
	Art. 10.5. Pre-shipment Inspection	
	Art. 10.6. Use of Customs Brokers	
	Art. 10.7. Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements	
	Art. 10.8. Rejected Goods	
	Art. 10.9. Temporary Admission of Goods/Inward and Outward Processing	

Scope of trade facilitation

Trade facilitation in WTO:

- Focus on legal and Customs matters (to aim at feasible results within the WTO TF Agreement)
- TFA measures: transparency, streamline [Customs] procedures, duties and fees, formalities

Trade facilitation in international supply chains:

- Simplification, harmonization, standardization and automation of procedures and processes in trade operations along supply chains
- With the participation of multiple stakeholders

National trade facilitation bodies:

- Requirement of TFA, art.23.2: **Each member shall establish** (or maintain) a **national committee on TF** or designate an **existing mechanism** to coordinate and implement the TFA – by TFA's entry into force
- Not subject to SDT (art.23.2) ⇒ **binding on day 1**
- TFA provision **based on experience**: TF bodies participated in the TFA negotiations
- **Issues to review:**
 - What focus and scope (TFA implementation or holistic TF approach); what structure; legal mandate; funding?
- All this is in **UNECE Recommendations 4 & 40**

What is the problem?

- Different mandates & goals of various institutions
 - Vested interests: legal and illegal revenue from procedures and control of documents
 - Complexity of international trade
 - Unclear, undefined objectives
 - Commercial goods and means of transport should conform to various acts and regulations for market entry, exit and conveyance. Different governmental bodies are tasked with ensuring conformity with regulations and intervene in the processes of international trade;
 - **balance TF with safety and security for society !**
- ⇒ A forum for discussion of problems and finding solutions is needed (NTFBs)

Solution: National TF Bodies: focus on FUNCTION rather than structure

Functions of the national body for TF:

- Bring together a forum for public-private dialogue and cooperation, and to define priorities in TF
- Lobby the Government for trade facilitation
- Create tools and recommendations in TF, using international (UN, etc.) standards
- Partner of UN (including UN/CEFACT), the World Bank, and other organizations
- Organize training and capacity-building courses on TF for the public and private sectors
- **Focus changed over time: procedures, EDI, WTO TFA**

Experience in Europe

- **SITPRO (UK)**
 - funded 100% by Government (DFID), disbanded by D.Cameron
- **SWEPRO (Sweden)**
 - 2 meetings per year; all agencies participate at their expense
- **AUDACE (France), supported 100% by private sector**
 - training activities; provides secretariat to EUROPRO – EU's NTFB

Options for the Czech Republic:

- Rely on EU (EUROPRO) only
- Maintain FITPRO, with stronger involvement of government regulatory agencies, along with participation in EUROPRO
- Create a new NTFC primarily based on participants from government regulatory bodies

Thanks!

For more information:

<http://tfig.unece.org/contents/intro-domain-gatf.htm>

Link:

