



WCO WORKING GROUP
ON THE WTO
TRADE FACILITATION
AGREEMENT

PT0081E1c

-
10th Meeting
-

22 - 23 October 2018

Brussels, 19 October 2018.

**DRAFT AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE
WCO WORKING GROUP ON THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT**

(Monday 22 October 2018, **9.30 a.m.** to Tuesday 23 October 2018, **18.00 p.m.**)

<u>Date/ Time</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Document</u>
		Day 1 - Policy Matters	
Day 1	I.	Opening and adoption of the Agenda <i>(For guidance and decision)</i> a) Opening of the Meeting by Ms. Ana Hinojosa, Director Compliance and Facilitation; b) Election of Chairperson/Vice Chairperson c) Adoption of the Draft Agenda and the Summary Document <i>The opening by Ms. Ana Hinojosa, Director Compliance and Facilitation of the WCO will set the scene for the TFAWG two day meeting.</i> <i>The current Chairperson, Ms. Ulrika Lyckman, is unable to continue as TFAWG Chairperson. The TFAWG is expected to confirm Mr. L. Satya Srinivas as the Chairperson and elect a new Vice Chairperson.</i> <i>This will be followed by the adoption of the Draft Agenda and the Summary Document, giving delegates the opportunity to suggest changes or additional topics for discussion.</i>	PT0081E1c PT0082E1a

For reasons of economy, documents are printed in limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Copyright © 2018 World Customs Organization. All rights reserved. Requests and inquiries concerning translation, reproduction and adaptation rights should be addressed to copyright@wcoomd.org.

<u>Date/ Time</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Document</u>
	II.	<p>Keynote speech by H.E. Ambassador Dalia Kadišienė, Lithuanian Ambassador to the WTO and Chairperson of the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee (TFC)</p> <p><i>H.E. Ambassador Kadišienė will address developments taking place in the WTO TFC and how this relates to the WCO.</i></p>	
Day 1	III.	<p>WTO TFA Developments (To take note and exchange views)</p> <p>a) WTO Secretariat – state of play TFA; b) WCO Secretariat - feedback from the June 2018 WCO Policy Commission and Council Sessions; c) Members – opportunity for Members to share their national experiences regarding ratification, categorization, preparation for implementation</p> <p><i>This item will inform the TFAWG of all relevant developments regarding the TFA from WTO and WCO perspectives. It also provides an opportunity for Members to inform the TFAWG about national developments related to the TFA acceptance and implementation.</i></p>	

<u>Date/ Time</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Document</u>
	IV.	<p>Capacity Building</p> <p>A. The Mercator Programme <i>(For discussion and guidance)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Update of achievements b) Tailor made track c) Opportunity for donors to report progress <p><i>The WCO Mercator Programme aims at assisting governments worldwide to implement trade facilitation measures under the WTO TFA expeditiously and in a uniform manner using WCO instruments and tools and applying the WCO strategic approach to sustainable capacity building. The TFAWG will be informed about recent achievements and the tailor made track. Donors will have the opportunity to brief the TFAWG from the floor about the progress they are making vis-a-vis TFA implementation. TFAWG delegates will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the information provided under this item.</i></p> <p>B. Implementing challenges faced by developing and least developed countries – panel discussion <i>(To take note and exchange views)</i></p> <p>Keynote speech by H.E. Ambassador Lok Bahadur Thapa, Ambassador of Nepal</p> <p>Moderator: Mrs. Brenda Mundia, Deputy Director, Capacity Building Directorate, WCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Mr. Matome Mathole, Customs Attaché of S.Africa b) Ms. Valerie Picard, Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation; c) Mr. William Gain, World Bank; <p><i>The TFA allows for special and differential treatment when it concerns the implementation of the TFA by developing and least developed countries. H.E.Ambassador Thapa will address Nepal's national experience on the implementation of the WTO TFA. In a panel discussion, the implementation challenges faced by these countries will be highlighted, as well as potential solutions to overcome them.</i></p>	PT0083E1a
		Lunch Break	

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Document</u>
Day 1	V.	<p>TFAWG Terms of Reference (For discussion and decision)</p> <p><i>At the 9th meeting, the TFAWG decided to discuss the so called monitoring function at the 10th meeting, including clarifying what that function entails in the WCO context when it comes to implementing the WTO TFA.</i></p> <p><i>At the July 2018 Policy Commission, delegates recognized that the TFAWG had a pivotal role to play in TFA implementation from both a political and a technical perspective, and that this required effective and efficient coordination, especially with the WTO, as well as the ability to monitor the progress of implementation - through Time Release Studies, for example. The Policy Commission therefore suggested that the TFAWG review its current Terms of Reference and submit a revised version to the Policy Commission in December 2018.</i></p> <p><i>The TFWAG is expected to discuss and decide changes to the Terms of Reference in accordance with the Policy Commission's wishes, including a strategy to promote the use of TRS as a tool to monitor the progress of TFA implementation.</i></p>	PT0084E1b
	VI.	<p>TFAWG Work Programme and Annual Work Plan (For discussion and guidance)</p> <p>a) Mr. Masudul Kabir, Customs Attaché of Bangladesh</p> <p><i>The TFAWG Work Programme and Annual Work Plan, the instruments to drive the work of the TFAWG and determine its agenda, were adopted in October 2017. The TFAWG will have the opportunity to discuss the progress in the past financial year and set new goals for the new financial year.</i></p>	PT0085E1b
		End of Day 1	

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Document</u>
		Day 2 – Technical Matters	
Day 2	VII.	<p>National Committees on Trade Facilitation and Coordinated Border Management – Challenges and Solutions (For discussion and guidance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lazzat Daniyarova, Customs Administration of Kazakhstan • Melvin Spreij, Standards and Trade Development Facility • Bryce Blegen, International Network of Customs Universities • Poul Hansen, UNCTAD. <p><i>National Committees on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) are crucial for the effective and efficient implementation of the TFA by all relevant stakeholders. They provide a platform where border inspection agencies and the private sector can coordinate their activities and find the best possible solutions. Under this item, the TFAWG will be informed about national experiences from different perspectives, including how NCTFs can enhance Coordinated Border Management.</i></p>	PT0086E1a
	VIIIa.	<p>Break-out session – Pre Arrival Processing (art. 7.1 TFA) and Expedited Shipments (art. 7.8 TFA) (For discussion and guidance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Presentation of national experience regarding pre arrival processing (Mr. Georges Cantone, Customs Administration of France in break-out session 1; b) Presentation of national experience regarding expedited shipments (tbc) in break-out session 2; <p><i>According to the TFA, each Member shall adopt or maintain procedures allowing for the submission of import documentation and other required information, including manifests, in order to begin processing prior to the arrival of goods with a view to expediting the release of goods upon arrival. The TFA also expects each Member to adopt or maintain procedures allowing for the expedited release of at least those goods entered through air cargo facilities to persons who apply for such treatment, while maintaining customs control. This is especially important in the context of E-Commerce for which the WCO has developed a Framework that also facilitates the implementation of TFA provisions.</i></p>	PT0087E1a

	Lunch Break		
<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Document</u>
	VIIIb.	<p>Plenary session (report from the break-out groups) – Pre Arrival Processing (art. 7.1 TFA) and Expedited Shipments (art. 7.8 TFA)</p> <p><i>The three break-out groups will report their findings to the plenary session.</i></p>	
	IX	<p>Connecting the Trade Facilitation Dots – Wrap up of the 10th TFAWG by H.E. Ambassador Mirjam Blaak Sow, Ambassador of Uganda</p> <p><i>H.E.Ambassador Blaak Sow will address the linkages between the developments taking place under the TFA and how different stakeholders, governments, private sector and international organizations can maximize trade facilitation results given the political momentum that the TFA has created.</i></p>	
	X.	Any Other Business	
	XI.	Closing	