



WCO WORKING GROUP
ON THE WTO
TRADE FACILITATION
AGREEMENT

PT0089E1b

INCLUDING THE JOINT
SESSION WITH THE
223rd/224th MEETING OF
THE PERMANENT
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

-
11th Meeting

-
4-5 March 2019

Brussels, 13 February 2019.

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

(Item I.(b) on the Agenda)

Introduction

1. This Summary Document (SD) provides an overview of the subjects to be discussed and the actions expected from the WCO Working Group on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFAWG) including the joint session with the 223rd/224th meeting of the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC). The objective of the SD is to provide more guidance to the TFAWG and PTC delegates on topics of focus and where input from Members is required.
2. In line with the above mentioned, the Secretariat produced an SD for this meeting's sessions, based on the draft agenda to have the items/sub-items classified into three different categories (A, B and C).

A. Report Back on Work in Progress;

The report back items for this meeting include updates of developments regarding the TFA in the WTO and the WCO. It will also include an update of activities and developments under the WCO Mercator Programme.

B. Decision and Guidance;

These items will include the adoption of the Draft Agenda and this Summary Document itself. It will also include the adoption of the Draft Agenda and Summary Document of the PTC, discussions on TFAWG Work Programme, Annual Work Plan, Performance Measurement, Coordinated Border Management, Regional/Plurilateral MRAs and potentially the topics to be discussed under Any Other Business.

C. Exploration and progression of Key Technical Issues;

These items will allow primarily for discussion of key (technical) issues, which Members and observers are facing, ideally common across a number of Members and/or regions. The time allotted to these items will be sufficient to allow for active participation by all delegates in fully exploring the issues raised. These items will include donors and beneficiary countries progress reports in TFA implementation, Time Release Study, Availability of the Trade Information on the Internet and Enquiry Points.

3. In addition to a summary of the background and expectations, an indication of whether the item is an A, B or C type, has been indicated next to each agenda item below.

I. Opening and adoption of the Agenda....."B"

Documents: PT0088 and PT0089

a) *Opening of the Meeting by Ms. Ana Hinojosa, Director Compliance and Facilitation*

4. The opening by Ms. Ana Hinojosa, Director of Compliance and Facilitation of the WCO will set the scene for the TFAWG two day meeting which will include a joint session with the PTC, to discuss topics of common interest.

b) *Adoption of the Draft Agenda and the Summary Document*

5. The Secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson prepared a Draft Agenda and a Summary Document for the meeting. The objective of the latter is to provide delegates with clear and concise information on the substance of agenda items and guidance on the actions required from the TFAWG.
6. The TFAWG will be invited to adopt the Draft Agenda and Summary Document

II. WTO TFA Developments....."A"

- a) ***WTO Secretariat – state of play of the TFA;***
- b) ***WCO Secretariat - feedback from the December 2018 WCO Policy Commission and other updates;***

c) Members – opportunity for Members to share their national experiences regarding ratification, categorization, implementation including establishing/maintaining National Committees on Trade Facilitation (NCTFs) and capacity building activities

7. This item will inform the TFAWG of all relevant developments regarding the TFA from WTO and WCO perspectives.
8. It also provides an opportunity for Members to inform the TFAWG about national developments related to the TFA acceptance and implementation.
9. The TFAWG will have the opportunity to ask questions and exchange views. Ultimately, the TFAWG will be requested to take note of the WTO TFA developments.

III. TFAWG Work Programme and Annual Work Plan....."B"

Document PT0090

10. The TFAWG Work Programme and Annual Work Plan are instruments to drive the work of the TFAWG and determine its agenda.
11. At the 10th Meeting, delegates agreed to carry out a comprehensive review of the Work Programme and Annual Work Plan at the following meeting. The delegates also decided to discuss and endorse it prior to the start of a Financial Year, therefore in the spring sessions of the TFAWG.
12. This item will offer the TFAWG the opportunity to review and endorse the TFAWG Work Programme and Annual Work Plan for the coming Financial Year 2019-2020.
13. The TFAWG will be invited to discuss and endorse the Work Programme and Annual Work Plan for Financial Year 2019/2020.

IV. Capacity Building

Document: PT0091

A. The Mercator Programme....."A"

- a) Overall track
- b) Tailor made track
- c) Mercator Programme Annual Report

B. Donors and beneficiary countries - to report progress in TFA implementation....."C"

d) Donor presentation

e) Beneficiary country presentation

f) TFAF Grant Programme (WTO Secretariat)

g) Opportunity for donors and beneficiary countries to report on the progress

- **WCO-SECO Programme (Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs)**
- **WCO-SECO signing ceremony**

14. 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 the overall and the tailor-made track of the Mercator Programme.

15. One of the key deliverables of the TFAWG is to monitor the progress of the implementation of WCO instruments and tools that support members in applying the TFA including through comprehensive reporting of WCO Mercator Programmes Missions. The Secretariat will inform the TFAWG about the work on Annual Report of the Mercator Programme.

16. At the 10th TFAWG Meeting, delegates requested to hear on TFA implementation experiences, besides from the donors, also from the beneficiary countries. This agenda item responds to that request. In addition, the donors and the beneficiary countries will have the opportunity to brief the TFAWG from the floor about the progress they are making vis-a-vis TFA implementation. The TFAWG will also be informed about the TFAF Grant Programme and WCO-SECO Programme.

17. The TFAWG will be invited to take note of the progress under the Mercator Programme and make further suggestions and recommendations.

V. Opening address by Deputy Secretary General ----- "B"

18. Deputy Secretary General will offer the opening address to the joint session of the PTC and TFAWG. Delegates will have the opportunity to engage with the Deputy Secretary General to comment on his speech and ask questions.

VI. Adoption of the Agenda and the Summary Document----- "B"

Document: PC0537 and PC0538

19. The Secretariat has in consultation with the Chairperson prepared a Draft Agenda. The Secretariat has also prepared a Summary Document with the objective of which is to provide the delegates with clear and concise information on the substance of agenda items and guidance on the actions required from the PTC.

20. The adoption of the Draft Agenda and the Summary Document giving delegates the opportunity to suggest changes or additional topics for discussion.
21. The joint session of the PTC and TFAWG will be invited to adopt the Draft Agenda and the Summary Document.

VII a. Break Out Session – Time Release Study----- “C”

Document: PT0092

- Presentation(s) of national experience(s)
22. Under this item, the joint session of the TFAWG and PTC will be able to share experiences and outcomes of their TRS activities including in terms of using TRS for monitoring TFA implementation. In order to receive as many experiences as possible from the Members, the presentation(s) will be followed by a break out session for further discussion.

**VII b. Plenary session (report from the break-out groups) – Time Release Study-----
“A”**

23. The two break-out groups will report on their findings to the plenary session.

VIII. Performance Measurement----- “B”

- WCO Comprehensive performance measurement tools
- Collection and analyses of data
- Cooperation with World Bank Group (update)

Document: SP0661, SP0671 and PT0093

24. At the 80th Policy Commission Meeting Members discussed on the links between performance measurement and monitoring of implementation of WCO instruments and tools, as well as the development of a Performance Measurement tool for Customs administrations. The Secretariat will inform the delegates about the ongoing work on this.
25. The Secretariat will inform the TFAWG and PTC on the cooperation with the WB on Doing Business by providing an update of the outcome of the Policy Commission and follow-up actions.
26. The TFAWG and PTC will be invited to:
- take note of the draft Terms of Reference of the proposed Working Group on Performance Measurement, which will be presented to the Policy Commission at its June 2019 session for finalization and approval;

- provide any feedback on the draft Business Case for establishment of the new Working Group on Performance Measurement, which will be presented to the Policy Commission at its June 2019 session, for review and approval.

IX. Coordinated Border Management----- “B”

o eCITES - end-to-end regulatory control of international trade in endangered species

27. At its 70th meeting held in October 2018, the CITES Standing Committee recommended to the CITES Conference of Parties to start a work programme on integration of CITES into paperless Customs clearance processes and risk management and to work with relevant partners, such as WCO, on the development of standards and solutions for electronic permit information exchange and validation as well as on the implementation of efficient risk based procedures for control in CITES listed species using information technologies and modern trade control procedures.
28. CITES Secretariat will inform the TFAWG and PTC about this initiative. The TFAWG and PTC will be invited to take note of this initiative and to provide further guidance on WCO’s possible contribution to this work.

X. Availability of Trade Information on the Internet (Art. 1.2 TFA) and Enquiry points (Art. 1.3) ----- “C”

- a) Global Trade Helpdesk (GTH), presentation by ITC
- b) Integrated enquiry points, Member’s experience

Document: PT0094

29. Global Trade Helpdesk (GTH) is a multi-agency response to the information gap in global trade – a one-stop shop for business and policy makers to access trade data and practical information about target markets.
30. The GTH was launched during the WTO MC11 in December 2017 by the ITC, WTO and UNCTAD together with the implementing agencies including the WCO. The WCO supports this initiative and works with the other stakeholders in further developing the GTH.
31. In addition, the TFAWG and PTC will have an opportunity to hear about a Member’s experience on the development of an integrated enquiry point.

XI. Regional / Pluriateral MRAs----- “B”

Document: PT0095

32. Recognizing the significance of regional/plurilateral AEO programmes and MRAs, the October 2017 SWG Meeting suggested developing a guidance on this topic, setting

out some minimum common standards that could be useful in developing and harmonizing such programmes.

33. Based on the preliminary work done thus far and Members' experiences and initiatives, the joint session of PTC and TFAWG will discuss and provide suggestions/feedback for developing the envisaged guidance.

XII. Any Other Business----- "B"

34. Delegates will have an opportunity to discuss topics in addition to the ones listed in the agenda. No requests received for topics to be discussed under Any Other Business so far.

XIII. Closing
