Croatia

Article 12 - Customs cooperation

Croatia, and Customs Administration of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Croatia, implements TFA based on the common customs legislation of the European Union. Having said that, it means that Croatia has implemented all articles stipulated in the TFA, by having the same customs legislation as other EU member states.

It can be emphasized that as regards to the implementation of customs cooperation (Article 12 of the WTO TFA) Croatia also implemented all the MAA Protocols of the EU FTA agreements, and the bilateral Customs cooperation and MAA agreements which have been concluded bilaterally with other third countries, on the basis of WCO model agreement and in line with EU provisions on Customs Cooperation and MAA agreements.

Apart from that, Croatia has concluded in 2022 the Exchange of Information Memoranda of Understanding with Bosnisa and Herzegowina and with Monte Negro, which are either already implemented or will be implemented very shortly, which will hopefully speed up the legitimate crossborder traffic and increase the success of preventing the illegal movements of goods.

For the interagency border management cooperation concept, there is IBM National Strategy, and Action Plan, which has been brought upon in 2005 and is updated every several years, where the Border Police, Customs, Service for Border Infrastructure building and maintenance, State Inspectorate with Veterinary service, Phytosanitary service, Sanitary service and Ministry of Transport and Sea are permanent bodies with representative delegates in the working bodies for legislation, organization and equipment and infrastructure. Other state bodies representatives are included on an need to be basis.

Actions performed at the border in cooperation with other agencies are related to the exchange of information, joint controls, share of powers, share of equipment, coordination of traffic management, joint trainings.

As regards to the role of NTFC, this role is taken over, from the implementation date of the TFA, by the EU authorised bodies. On the national level Croatia did have a NTFC until joining the EU in 2013. The NTFC Committee included, besides those mentioned above state ministries and agencies, also the representatives of private sector – Croatian Entrepreneur Association, Croatian Exporter Association, Croatian Chamber of Commerce, Association of Freight forwarders, which had been meeting regularly on the issues needed to be resolved either through change of legislation or by the infrastructure undertaking or by better operational coordination at the border. All this is performed also after 2013, but not through the NTFC, but through the regular consultation mechanism with private sector through seminars and education actions initiated either by the private sector or by Customs Administration.