



Case Study

National Committee on Trade Facilitation Italy

Article 23.2 of the WTO TFA: “Each Member shall establish and/or maintain a national committee on trade facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of this Agreement.”

1. Introduction

The Italian National Committee on Trade Facilitation was established in March 2014, based on a pre-existing body, the National Strategic Board for International Trade Facilitation. The National Committee on Trade Facilitation is the sole national body tasked to implement the entire TFA. Its first meeting is currently under preparation.

2. Structure of the Committee

The following government bodies form part of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation:

Presidency of the Council
Ministry of Economic Development
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Economy and Finance
Ministry of Interior Affairs
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Environment
Ministry of Transport/infrastructure
Port/Airport/Railroad Authorities and Associations
Customs Agency
Fiscal National Agency
Standards Setting Authority
Italian Trade Agency
Sace
Simest
INVITALIA
Italian Banking Association

The main Italian business associations, as representatives of the private sector, will also attend meetings of the National Committee.

A Secretariat, at the Ministry of Economic Development (International Trade Department), is helping to organize the Committee meetings.

The National Committee on Trade Facilitation is organized into four Working Groups:

1. Financial Issues
2. Operators' Issues
3. Interoperability
4. Aid for Trade



3. Role of Customs and Level of Participants

Participants are high-level government officials (Director General (DG), Deputy DG-Level), Directors and technicians/experts from the private sector. The role of Customs is still to be defined.

4. Challenges and Solutions

The main challenge is coordinating many different administrations and bodies. So far, one of the key decisions has been to determine the right size for the Committee. While it is important to ensure that every party involved is represented, a large group makes the consultation process difficult to manage. The leading administration has found that the creation of four small and focused working groups will guarantee both technical discussions and workable solutions. The governance and membership of the Committee and working groups may be periodically reviewed.

5. Relevant Documentation such as Terms of Reference

- Ministerial Decree No. 5324, 27 March 2014

6. Contact person for the NCTF

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If you require any further information, please contact Ms. Hermie George, Technical Attaché in the WCO Compliance and Facilitation Directorate on (hermie.george@wcoomd.org).