

Country: Republic of the Congo

Background:

Official name: Pending its official text of creation, it is called the National Sub-Committee for Trade Facilitation of the Congo and operates in an informal manner and is headquartered in the Ministry of Commerce, specifically in the general direction of foreign trade.

Year of establishment: It was established in June 2018

Motivation for its establishment: Although it does not yet have an official creation text, the Congo's national trade facilitation subcommittee has been set up in accordance with the requirements of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in accordance with Article 23 institutional provisions in point 2 relating to the National Trade Facilitation Committee.

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: The National Trade Facilitation Subcommittee is one of the National Multilateral Trade Negotiation Monitoring and Coordination Committee sub-committees that follow WTO files.

Former multi-agency group/committee: The government has just created by Decree n ° 2019-287 of October 7, 2019 the national committee for the facilitation and the simplification of the port passage. The national trade facilitation subcommittee will necessarily sit on this new committee.

Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc): The trade facilitation subcommittee's working group is still in a pilot phase

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: The trade facilitation subcommittee will be institutionalized by order of the Minister of Commerce. However, the cross-cutting nature of the trade facilitation files and the inter-ministerial composition of this national subcommittee could lead to a decree for its creation.

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): It still works on an ad hoc basis

Coordinating agency: In the current situation, the facilitation subcommittee is under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce, despite the transversality of the files it is called upon to deal with.

Scope/mandate: its creation text will determine the mandate of the subcommittee, which will not in all cases be a decision mandate but rather a proposition mandate.

Terms of reference: Pending the text of its creation, which will also determine its attributions, this subcommittee has no terms of reference.

Working structure of the group: For the moment, the presidency has been entrusted to the private sector that I represent, accompanied by customs, but this structuring is not yet complete.

Permanent technical secretariat: No secretariat has yet been set up.

Funding:

Budget: No budget has yet been allocated to it in the absence of a creation text. In its current configuration, the trade facilitation subcommittee being a subcomponent of the national committee for monitoring and coordinating multilateral trade negotiations, it cannot have an autonomous budget.

Sources of funding: No source of financing exists apart from the operating credits of the national committee for monitoring and coordinating multilateral trade negotiations allocated by the Congolese state budget.

Items covered by the budget: No structure of its services or expenses is currently defined.

Objectives / Focus:

Objectives: The current priority is the publication of the official text establishing, attributing and organizing the facilitation subcommittee.

Working plan: In the absence of the official creation text, defining its attributions, no work plan was defined.

Monitoring and evaluation: -

Reporting form and supervisory authority: -

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies: For the moment, no agency is participating in the working group

Private associations or entities: As a private association, there is the Employers' and Interprofessional Union that I represent. In addition, the chamber of commerce

Level of seniority of participants: Pending the official text, the members are not hierarchical

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: It is the official text which will determine the operating rules of the subcommittee and the frequency of its meetings

Level of participation: Nothing to say yet

Meetings format: Nothing to say yet

Gender:

Percentage of female in the committee: Until further development this percentage cannot be determined

Chairman / President / Vice-president is female: Apart from the President that I am, the leadership of the subcommittee is not yet structured

Committee did decide on gender mainstreaming TF in the past: None, despite the fact that there are many problems affecting trade facilitation, the identification of which will be one of the first tasks of the 1st action program of the subcommittee

If yes, explain briefly (example: recommendations on gender, special trade procedures for women, etc): Nothing to say yet

If no, why not. (Example: It not considered a priority, not considered relevant at this stage, lack of awareness, etc): Nothing to say yet

If no, explain future plan in this area.: Nothing to say yet

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: Nothing to say yet

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: None

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: No meeting yet

Benefits:

Impact: No impact yet

Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process: The group participates through the national committee for monitoring multilateral trade negotiations of which it is a member

Concrete operational outcomes: No result

Lessons learned:

Success factors: The publication of the official text

Greatest obstacles: The main obstacles encountered by the subcommittee are linked to the absence of an official creation text, which will also define its attributions, its composition and its functioning.

Lessons learned from your experience: The non-functionality of the Congolese Facilitation Committee is very detrimental to the country's foreign trade and to the competitiveness of the Congo Seaport.

Future plans:

Plans for further development: The working group has no development plan yet

Contact information:

Contact Information: Monsieur Jean-Jacques SAMBA

Titre : Conseiller du Président d'UNICONGO



UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Last Update: 14/02/2020 00:00:00

Organisation : Union Patronale et Interprofessionnelle du Congo (UNICONGO)

Adresse électronique : jean-jacques.samba@unicongo.org

Numéro de téléphone : +242 06 661 48 61