

## Country: Turkey

### Background:

**Type of body:** Board of Trade Facilitation

**Official name:** Board of Trade Facilitation

**Motivation for its establishment:** WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the global need for trade facilitation reforms

**Year of establishment:** 2016

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:** TF Board of Turkey is the sole competent body for the coordination of TF related matters. However, there are other national bodies/committees/boards which are dealing with logistics and investment promotion activities.

**Former multi-agency group/committee:** No, it is a recently-established body.

**Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc):** The Circular Letter establishing the Board of Trade Facilitation in Turkey published on the Official Gazette dated 3 December 2016. The first meeting of the Board will be held in the first quarter of 2017.

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:** The Circular Letter constitutes the mandate of the Board. The Circular Letter drafted by the Ministry of Customs and Trade and Ministry of Economy, and signed by the Prime Minister of Republic of Turkey.

**Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc):** Board of Trade Facilitation set up as a legal entity.

**Scope/mandate:** The Circular Letter is the mandate of the Board.

**Terms of reference:** The terms of reference for the Board drafted by the Ministry of Customs and Trade and Ministry of Economy and will be adopted by the Board of Trade Facilitation.

**Coordinating agency:** Ministry of Customs and Trade is the coordinator and Secretariat of the Board of Trade Facilitation.

**Working structure of the group:** The Board of Trade Facilitation is co-chaired by Undersecretaries of Ministry of Customs and Trade and Ministry of Economy. The Board is made up of a General Assembly, Technical Committee and Working Groups which will be established when required. Ministry of Customs and Trade will conduct the permanent secretariat of the Board. The General Assembly will meet twice a year, while the technical committee will meet 2 or 3 times a year. According to the circular, special sessions are also possible if required. According to the ToR, the Technical Committee will be authorised to prepare a Trade Facilitation strategy and Action Plans for trade facilitation reforms and policies. The secretariat will prepare the reports and draft decisions of

the meetings and ensure that the decisions are signed by the co-chairs.

**Permanent technical secretariat:** Ministry of Customs and Trade will conduct the permanent secretariat of the Board.

## **Funding:**

**Budget:** There is no formal budget allocated for the operations of the Board, yet. The Secretariat is still working on the different options.

## **Objectives / Focus:**

**Objectives:** Alongside with the task of coordination and implementation of commitments under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, the Board will have the function of determining the problems in implementation of the commitments under the Agreement, developing policies to solve those problems, enhancing the dialogue between the public and private sector in the area of making trade facilitation policies, incorporating all the stakeholders into this process, establishing coordination between the public sector agencies, following and participating in international studies and events and so on.

**Working plan:** Not yet. But Trade Facilitation strategy and Action Plans for trade facilitation reforms and policies will be prepared by the Board.

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** Minutes will be prepared at the end of each meeting and shared with the stakeholders.

## **Membership / Composition:**

**Public or quasi-public agencies:** The public sector is represented by the main public agencies of:  
•Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology •Ministry of Environment and Urbanization •Ministry of Foreign Affairs •Ministry of Economy •Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock •Ministry of Customs and Trade •Ministry of Development •Ministry of Health •Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications •Turkish Standards Institution •Small and Medium Sized Industry Development Organization •The Banks Association of Turkey

**Private associations or entities:** And the private sector is represented by: •Foreign Economic Relations Board •Turkish Exporters Assembly •The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey •International Transporters' Association •Association of International Forwarding and Logistics Service Providers •Associations of Customs Consultancy. On the other hand, the circular allows representatives of other entities such as universities, NGOs, think-tanks to be invited to the meetings, if required.

**Level of seniority of participants:** At the General Assembly, the member entities will be represented by a director general/chairman. At the Technical Committee, the member entities will be

represented by head of department/experts/analysts.

## **Participation:**

**Frequency of meetings:** The General Assembly will meet twice a year, while the technical committee will meet 2 or 3 times a year. According to the circular, special sessions are also possible if required.

**Meetings format:** Working groups on specific matters will be established by the General Assembly, if required.

## **Promotion / Communication:**

**Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:** The invitation letters (indicating the date and venue of the meetings) will be prepared by the Secretariat of the Board and shared with stakeholders at least 10 days before the meetings.

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** TF Board of Turkey is the sole competent body for the coordination of TF related matters. In addition, the other national bodies/committees/boards which are dealing with logistics and investment promotion activities can be invited to the meetings as well.

## **Contact information:**

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