

## Country: Italy

### Background:

**Type of body:** There are two trade facilitation bodies in Italy:

- National Trade Facilitation Committee;
- PRO-committee

**Official name:** There are two trade facilitation committees in Italy:

- National Strategic Table for Trade Facilitation; and
- Simplification Procedures of Foreign Trade (Semplificazione Procedure di Commercio Estero, SEMPROITALIA).

**Motivation for its establishment:** The National Strategic Table is a forum coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Development:

- To discuss primarily problems that economic operators encounter in the export-import process, and at the same time; and
- To embody and to spread guidelines, recommendations and standards in the area of trade facilitation, coming from the UN.

**Year of establishment:**

- The National Strategic Table was established in 2009; and
- SEMPROITALIA was established on 8 April 1991.

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:** The Italian Customs Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Former multi-agency group/committee:** The National Strategic Table was created after the organisation of two national/international conferences coordinated by SEMPROITALIA, the Italian Trade Facilitation Body related to the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT).

**Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc):** Running

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:**

- The National Strategic Table was created by a Ministerial Act (Decree), adopted on 23 December 2009; and
- SEMPROITALIA was created through a communication issued by the Ministry of trade on 8 April 1991.

**Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc):** Ad hoc group set up by the Ministry of Economic Development.

**Scope/mandate:** The National Strategic Table has the following mandate:

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To analyse and plan the necessary activities to ensure greater coverage among national operators, of the knowledge and use of procedures and operational tools, developed in major international forums, such as the Economic Commission for Europe, the European Union, the World Trade Organisation, the World Customs Organisation, among others;

To investigate the problems indicated by the Enterprises regarding the procedures for foreign trade; and

To contribute to the identification of national and international initiatives in order to overcome these problems.

**Terms of reference:** The National Strategic Table is guided by the principles based on the UN Recommendations (in particular Recommendation N° 33 – Single Window) and ISO standards - which comply with the so-called international standards best practices.

**Coordinating agency:**

For the National Strategic table, the Ministry of Economic Development; and  
For SEMPROITALIA, the Ministry of Trade

**Working structure of the group:** The National Strategic Table counts with four sub-groups.

**Permanent technical secretariat:** Both bodies have technical Secretariats.

**Funding:**

**Budget:** No

**Objectives / Focus:**

**Objectives:** The objectives of the National Strategic Table are, *inter alia*, the simplification, harmonisation and facilitation of all import-export procedures.

**Working plan:** Each sub-group has a working plan.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** By a plenary meeting in which every single group reports the achieved results.

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** Whenever a specific task has been accomplished, the groups report to the steering committee.

**Membership / Composition:**

**Public or quasi-public agencies:** The National Strategic Table is composed of:

- Ministry of Economic Development;
- Ministry of Environment;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ministry of Health;
- Ministry of Transportation;

Ministry of Food and Agricultural Policies;  
Ministry of Interior;  
Ministry of Public Administration;  
Customs Agency;  
Guardia di Finanza (enforcement agency under the authority of the Minister of Economy and Finance);  
Agency for Food Control;  
Italian Trade Promotion Agency (Italian acronym ICE-Agenzia);  
Finance institution for the promotion and development of Italian businesses abroad (Italian Acronym SIMEST);  
Italian agency for export credit and investment insurance (Italian acronym SACE);  
Italian Agency for Foreign Direct Investment attraction (Italian acronym Invitalia); and  
Association of the Italian Chambers of Commerce.

**Private associations or entities:** The National Strategic Table is composed of:

Logistic and Forwarders Companies Federation;  
Italian Association Banks (Italian acronym ABI);  
Consortium Customer to Business Interaction (Italian acronym CBI-ABI);  
Federation of Italian Industries;  
Italian General Confederation of Commerce, Tourism and Services (Italian acronym Confcommercio);  
Federation of Italian SMEs (Italian acronym Confapi); and  
Italian Association of exporting companies (Italian acronym AICE).

**Level of seniority of participants:** Head of the Office and Chief Executive Officer

## **Participation:**

**Frequency of meetings:** Yes

**Level of participation:** Between 70% and 80% of the members of each sub-group attend the meetings.

**Meetings format:** No

## **Promotion / Communication:**

**Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:** By conferences, seminars, reports, documents and communication up-loaded into the website.

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** By conferences, seminars, reports, documents and communication up-loaded into the website.

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** The National Strategic Table

normally organises general conferences; and *ad hoc* seminars to inform the general public and stakeholders.

## **Benefits:**

**Impact:** The National Strategic Table succeeded in creating a public–private partnership, fundamental to overcome critical points and to lighten administration burdens affecting international trade.

**Benefits for the country’s responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:** The experience gained within the group was important to facilitate the implementation of WTO decisions documents such as questionnaires, and working papers.

**Concrete operational outcomes:** Several procedures have been simplified.

## **Lessons learned:**

**Success factors:** The involvement of all the actors was a success factor.

**Greatest obstacles:** The fragmentation of responsibilities between all administrations.

**Lessons learned from your experience:** Close collaboration leads to concrete results.

## **Future plans:**

**Plans for further development:** Developing a tool to facilitate international trade of Italian companies.

## **Contact information:**

**Contact Information:** Segreteria ITH-Italia

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