

Country: Croatia

Background:

Type of body: PRO-committee

Official name: Croatia PRO-committee - National Committee for Simplification of Procedures and Practices in Administration, Commerce and Transport

Motivation for its establishment: Southeast Europe Cooperative Initiative and the Stability Pact

Year of establishment: 22 September 1998

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: There is no other national body dealing with WTO or Trade Facilitation issues. Nonetheless, some Ministries and State offices are involved in WTO and Trade Facilitation matters.

Former multi-agency group/committee: No

Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc): In process of forming a real working group. Croatia PRO-committee is operational but focused on education for small and medium enterprises.

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: Government of Croatia made decision to form National Trade Facilitation Committee (Croatia PRO-committee).

Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc): Ad hoc

Scope/mandate: To promote Trade Facilitation in the beginning.

Terms of reference: No, not yet.

Coordinating agency: State Office for Trade Policy

Working structure of the group: Chair and co-chair from Croatian Chamber of Economy; and Chair and co-chair from business community.

Permanent technical secretariat: No

Funding:

Budget: Croatia PRO-committee is fully funded by the Croatian Chamber of Economy.

Sources of funding: Croatian Chamber of Economy

Items covered by the budget: Travel cost, seminars and workshops organisation costs.

Objectives / Focus:

Objectives: Promotion of trade facilitation, better cooperation with Customs and other public authorities, sharing know-how, training for small and medium enterprises etc.

Working plan: Yes

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Monitoring and evaluation: Through questionnaires and meetings.

Reporting form and supervisory authority: For now, every three months to the president of the Croatian Chamber of Economy office and to State office for trade policy.

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies:

Ministry of Finance;
Customs Directorate;
Ministry of Economy;
State Office for Trade Policy;
Croatian Bureau of Statistics;
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs;

Other institutions may participate depending on the issues in the agenda.

Private associations or entities: All business associations of the Croatian Chamber of Economy (more than 30)

Level of seniority of participants: Board members, owners, general managers (depending on topic of meeting).

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: No for the last six years. Just members of CroatiaPRO Council have meetings since 2006.

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Meetings format: Depending on goals and what is needed. For the last six years, CroatiaPRO is focused on education for SMEs and to build good cooperation with Customs.

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: By e-mails.

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues: CroatiaPRO is a member of EUROPRO.

Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public: Once a year by publishing annual report in business newspapers and in Customs magazine.

Benefits:

Impact: Good cooperation with Customs which now produces an average of 25 seminars per year under CroatiaPRO Organisation and regular monthly meeting to discuss trade facilitation issues

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about Customs procedures, single window concept, Authorised Economic Operators, etc.

Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process: By providing:

Business perspective on relevant issues, and

Opinions to the State Office for Trade Policy, responsible for WTO matters in Croatia.

Concrete operational outcomes:

In 2013, CroatiaPRO organised 24 seminars with more than 2000 participants. These seminars will cover Customs procedures and Croatia's accession to the EU (INTRASTAT, Excise Movement and Control System- EMCS, Import Control System-ICS, Electronic Commerce Solutions-ECS, Integrated Community Tariff-TARIC, Customs law of EU among other issues)

Participation in EUROPRO's work, dealing with trade facilitation issues in EU such as single window, new EU Customs Code, Authorised Economic Operators, etc.

Trough EUROPRO, Croatia participates in meetings held in EU, WTO, WCO, UNCTAD, UNECE, UN/CEFACT and other working groups.

Lessons learned:

Success factors: By having members coming from business and public authorities from all areas of trade facilitation, it is possible to answer efficiently to all challenges of trade facilitation, benefiting all parties involved.

Greatest obstacles: Frequent change in members coming from ministries and other public authorities.

Lessons learned from your experience: Without good cooperation between the public sector and the business community, trade facilitation is not possible. This results in a huge number of problems and misunderstandings.

Future plans:

Plans for further development: Reorganise and start building a new structure which will involve all parties, in order to become a proper National Trade Facilitation working group.

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