

## Country: Finland

### Background:

**Type of body:** PRO-committee

**Official name:** The Finnish National Body for Simpler Trade Procedures (FINSIPRO).

**Motivation for its establishment:** Standardisation and harmonisation of the trade and document requirements domestically and internationally.

**Year of establishment:** 1973

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:** Yes

**Former multi-agency group/committee:** The working group has changed its official form, but always worked on the same basis.

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

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:** There are specific Terms of Reference as well as a Letter of Appointment issued by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy.

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

**Scope/mandate:** Trade and Transport Facilitation

**Terms of reference:** FINSIPRO seeks to:

To foster and enhance functional cooperation between traders and authorities when developing trade facilitation;

To highlight the obstacles and barriers identified by companies in domestic and international trade facilitation arena;

To ensure that the points of view of Finnish companies are considered in international recommendations on trade facilitation; and

To provide companies with:

Knowledge on international trade facilitation,

Opportunity to have information on international procedures in eBusiness,

Opportunity to ask about problems concerning trade facilitation in companies,

Opportunity to keep up with trade facilitation development projects, and

Opportunity to influence on development of trade facilitation.

**Coordinating agency:** Ministry of Employment and the Economy

**Working structure of the group:** Chair, Secretariat and members

**Permanent technical secretariat:** The Finnish Information Society Development Centre (TIEKE).

### Funding:

# UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Last Update: Older than 2013

**Budget:** Budget for the Secretariat

**Sources of funding:** Ministry of Employment and the Economy

**Items covered by the budget:**

Secretariat daily work; and

Participation in United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) meetings.

## Objectives / Focus:

**Objectives:**

Cooperation among Trade Facilitation related organisations;

Information dissemination; and

Domestic and international Trade Facilitation work.

**Working plan:** Yes

**Monitoring and evaluation:** Through reports and questionnaires

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** The group reports on its activities to the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, twice a year.

## Membership / Composition:

**Public or quasi-public agencies:**

Ministry of Employment and the Economy;

Ministry for Foreign Affairs;

Ministry of Transport and Communications; and

National Board of Customs .

**Private associations or entities:**

Federation of Employers;

Central Chamber of Commerce;

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Finland;

Standards Association;

Trade Associations;

Federation of Financial Services;

Logistic Association;

Confederation of Finish Industries;

Finish Business Community; and

GS1 Finland.

**Level of seniority of participants:** Management and experts

## Participation:

**Frequency of meetings:** FINSIPRO meets three or four times per year. In the meantime, there are also sub-group meetings as necessary.

**Level of participation:** Between 50% and 60% of the membership participation per meeting.

**Meetings format:** Subgroup and events

## Promotion / Communication:

**Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:** The communication between meetings is done through FINSIPRO website and by e-mails.

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** Group members participate in other groups.

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** Within the meetings / events there are thematic presentations on various issues related to Trade Facilitation stakeholders.

## Benefits:

**Impact:** Awareness rising and information exchange on Trade Facilitation and related topics among the stakeholders.

**Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:** Members participating in the WTO negotiations on trade facilitation report to the FINSIPRO about such negotiations. Some results and outcomes from the WTO negotiations are reflected in the FINSIPRO working program. For instance, the Accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO, as adjacent country to Finland, was a permanent topic in the FINSIPRO agenda.

**Concrete operational outcomes:** Publications, studies, seminars and events.

## Lessons learned:

**Success factors:** Wide cooperation and information dissemination.

**Greatest obstacles:** General awareness of the Trade Facilitation work among business and administration, Administration Silos.

**Lessons learned from your experience:** The main lessons are:

The importance of information distribution on both national and international activities initiated, conducted and attended by different stakeholders involved in the trade facilitation field; and Practical approach is important to attract the interest of stakeholders especially in business.

## Future plans:

**Plans for further development:** Rising awareness, enhance the stakeholder group, the work items and topics are reviewed annually.



# UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Last Update: Older than 2013

## **Contact information:**

**Contact Information:** Mr Matti Oivukkamäki

Chair, FINSIPRO

Ministry of Employment and the Economy

E-mail: [matti.oivukkamaki@tem.fi](mailto:matti.oivukkamaki@tem.fi)

Mr Jari Salo

Secretariat, FINSIPRO

[jari.salo@tieke.fi](mailto:jari.salo@tieke.fi)