

## Country: Spain

### Background:

**Type of body:** PRO-committee

**Official name:** Organisation for Trade Procedure Streamlining (Spanish acronym SIMPROESPAÑA).

**Motivation for its establishment:** The initiative was launched within the Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations, by a group of professionals from different sectors of the economy and business in order to contribute to the rationalisation of trade methods and procedures.

**Year of establishment:** 1989

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:** The Spanish Association of Commercial Coding

**Former multi-agency group/committee:** No

**Current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, not functioning, etc):** Running, but with low activity level.

### Institutional Framework:

**Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc):** SIMPROESPAÑA was created within the Commission on Investigation, Development and Innovation as part of the Advisory Bodies of the Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations.

**Scope/mandate:** At national level, SIMPROESPAÑA seeks:

To contribute to the rationalisation of trade methods and procedures,

To increase the economic relations, and

To promote and raise awareness among employers on the use of Electronic Data Interchange, Electronic Commerce as well as Information Technology and Communication tools.

At international level, SIMPROESPAÑA seeks:

To be an information centre. For this purpose, it is member of the European Network of Awareness Centres.

To participate and be full member in the most important international forums dedicated to Electronic Data Interchange and Electronic Commerce, such as:

United Nations Centre for Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT),

European Committee for Standardisation, and

EUROPRO.

**Terms of reference:** In process

**Coordinating agency:** The Secretariat of SIMPROESPAÑA, represented by the Head of the Industrial Affairs and Innovation, Department of Economics, Spanish Confederation of Business

Organisations.

**Working structure of the group:** SIMPROESPAÑA has:

- a Chairman,
- a Technical Secretariat,
- a Working Group on Electronic Invoicing, and
- Members.

**Permanent technical secretariat:** Yes, the Secretariat of SIMPROESPAÑA.

## **Funding:**

**Budget:** SIMPROESPAÑA's operations are charged to regular budget of the Department of Economics, Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations.

**Sources of funding:** Regular budget of the Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations.

**Items covered by the budget:** Basically travel arrangements (domestic and international travels).

## **Objectives / Focus:**

### **Objectives:**

- To rationalise trade methods and procedures,
- To increase the economic relations;
- To promote and raise awareness among employers in using the Electronic Billing, Electronic Commerce and Information Technology and Communication tools.

**Working plan:** Specific actions are being developed in light of the agreement reached during the "Hispano-Portuguese Business Meeting" held in May 2013 in Madrid. In partnership with Portugal, SIMPROESPAÑA will simplify trade procedures.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** On annual basis. Every year, a Plenary Meeting is held where SIMPROESPAÑA's activities are reviewed.

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** The SIMPROESPAÑA Cabinet reports to the Commission on Investigation, Development and Innovation during its plenary sessions or when it deems necessary.

## **Membership / Composition:**

**Public or quasi-public agencies:** Tax Agency, Customs and special Tax Department, Ministry of Finance and Public Administration.

### **Private associations or entities:**

- Associations and members of Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations of the following sectors: Automotive;
- ICT and the Information Society;

Pharmaceutical;  
Biotechnology; and  
Capital Goods among others.

**Level of seniority of participants:** Experts

## **Participation:**

**Frequency of meetings:** The SIMPROESPANA Cabinet meets on plenary session once a year. The Cabinet may also meet when it deems necessary.

**Level of participation:** Average participation level.

**Meetings format:** Depending on the work performed within the SIMPROESPANA, the Cabinet may organise conferences, seminars, workshops, among others.

## **Promotion / Communication:**

**Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:** By e-mail

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** By e-mail or, if necessary, through joint working sessions.

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** Through conferences or seminars.

## **Benefits:**

**Impact:** To aware the competent authorities about the need and importance of facilitating international trade procedures.

**Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process:** By providing a forum for the communication between public authorities and Spanish business.

### **Concrete operational outcomes:**

The awareness of Spanish industrial sectors and, therefore, their companies, about the importance of trade facilitation to improve their competitiveness.

Participation in various national and international projects on new technologies diffusion, such as PATHEDI, EDIFUSION I EDITOUR, EDIFUSION II, EDITTL, FOREDI, DINTEL.

The organisation of several conferences and seminars in Spain with the aim of spreading awareness among Spanish companies

The Working Group on Electronic Invoicing along with other public and private entities have elaborated national legislation on electronic invoicing,

It contributed to dissemination of the Development Plan on Electronic Billing, developed by the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Energy (formerly Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade), through public consultation carried out by the Ministry.

## Lessons learned:

### Greatest obstacles:

- Lack of consensus between sectors regarding common standards;
- Existing rigidities in the field of management; and
- Resistance to change by certain traditional businesses.

**Lessons learned from your experience:** Trade facilitation remains a relevant issue. Despite the efforts invested in this subject in recent years, trade facilitation still needs further development.

## Future plans:

### Plans for further development:

- To continue the rationalisation of trade methods and procedures;
- To promote and disseminate among the business community the advantages of using Electronic Billing, and e-Commerce as well as Information Technology and Communication tools;
- To develop partnerships between Portugal and Spain on simplification of trade procedures based on the agreement reached in the "Hispano-Portuguese Business Meeting" held in Madrid in May 2013.

## Contact information:

**Contact Information:** Mr. Manuel Pereira Ramos

Chairman

SIMPROESPAÑA Cabinet Secretariat

E-mail: manuel\_pereira\_ramos@hotmail.com

- malvarez@ceoe.es

- simpro@ceoe.org

<http://www.ceoe.es>