

Country: Egypt

Background:

Official name: National Trade Facilitation Committee

By: Trade Facilitation Department

Motivation for its establishment: Negotiation on the legal text and hence Implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement by WTO.

Year of establishment: 2011

Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation: All the competent authorities are involved at the National Trade Facilitation Committee.

Former multi-agency group/committee: Yes

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

Institutional Framework:

Degree of institutionalisation: Ministerial decree was issued.

A national committee for Trade Facilitation was formulated according to the ministerial decree no. 183 for 2011, including all the competent authorities (public & private) in relation to Trade Facilitation.

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

Scope/mandate: Governmental

Terms of reference: Yes

Coordinating agency: Trade Facilitation Department

Ministry of Trade and Industry

Trade Agreements Sector at the Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade.

Working structure of the group: Chair/ co-chair

Permanent technical secretariat: Yes

Funding:

Budget: No

Sources of funding: Governmental budget

Items covered by the budget: Committee expenses

Objectives / Focus:

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To study proposals submitted by WTO members;

To formulate the Egyptian negotiating position;

To follow-up the implementation of the WTO negotiation outcomes at the national and international level; and

To discuss matters related to trade facilitation to improve exports and imports measures.

Working plan: Yes

Monitoring and evaluation: The Sub-committee prepares special technical reports including the result of its activities. The Secretariat follows up the implementation of the committee recommendations.

Reporting form and supervisory authority: Every meeting a report is prepared and introduced to the competent authorities, ministers and international organizations.

Membership / Composition:

Public or quasi-public agencies:

Ministry of Transport;
Egyptian Federation for Standardization & Quality (EOS);
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Justice;
Ministry of Interior Affairs;
Customs Authority;
General organisation for exports & imports control;
Veterinary Quarantine;
Agriculture Quarantine.

Note: The committee may invite any other relevant authorities as needed, according to the topic discussed.

Private associations or entities:

Federation of Industries;
General Federation for the Chambers of commerce;
Egyptian Businessmen Association in Cairo; and
Egyptian Businessmen Association in Alexandria.

Level of seniority of participants: Head of the authorities are fully aware about the topics discussed and involved in the process, in case they did not manage to attend the meetings.

Participation:

Frequency of meetings: The Trade Facilitation body meets regularly.

Level of participation: Full representation of the entities.

Meetings format: Agenda items guide the meetings.

Promotion / Communication:

Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings: An information portal is in process.

Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:

Establishment of National Focal Point for Trade Facilitation; and
By letters and memos.

Benefits:

Impact:

Successful negotiating group at the WTO to conclude Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Ratification process are about to be completed.

Implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement and needs assessment.

Benefits for the country's responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process: Trade Facilitation department is the one responsible for both National Trade Facilitation Committee and WTO negotiation process.

Concrete operational outcomes: Yes

Lessons learned:

Success factors: Political will to achieve Trade Facilitation.

According to the Doing Business report (World Bank and the IFC), Egypt was allocated in the 109 place of the ranking ease of doing business in 2013.

Greatest obstacles: Needs assessment, Technical assistance and good political conditions.

Lessons learned from your experience: Collaborative work is needed.

Future plans:

Plans for further development: The creation of an information portal and enquiry point.

Contact information:

Contact Information: Magdi AbdelAziz

Chair, Head of Customs Authority, Ministry of Finance,
Tel: 0020122181950

Ashraf Mokhtar

Co- Chair, Head of Central Department of WTO affairs,
Trade Agreement Sector, Ministry of Trade and Industry,



UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

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Tel: 00201006595584

Email: Ash.mokhtar@tas.gov.eg

Nermeen ElMeligy

Head of Trade Facilitation Department, Trade Agreements Sector,

Tel: 00201222639570

Email: n.elmeligy@tas.gov.eg, Nermeen.elmeligy@gmail.com