

## Country: Czech Republic

### Background:

**Type of body:** PRO-committee

**Official name:** National Body for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business – Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (FITPRO).

**Motivation for its establishment:** The establishment of FITPRO was motivated by Recommendation N° 4 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies (WP.6)

**Year of establishment:** 1979

**Other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with Trade Facilitation:** No

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

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

### Institutional Framework:

**Degree of institutionalisation:**

Decree of the Ministry of International Trade, adopted in 1979; and  
Decree of Ministry of Trade and Industry.

**Type of organisation (ad hoc group, legal entity/organisation, etc):** FITPRO has been set up as separate department of the Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic.

**Scope/mandate:** Advisory board for State Administrative and entrepreneurs.

**Terms of reference:** The Decree of the Ministry of International Trade, adopted in 1979, and the Decree of Ministry of Trade and Industry. According to these regulations, FITPRO seeks to create the conditions for and assist the introduction and development of effective methods in the technology of international (and domestic) trade in the Czech Republic, including electronic data interchange using the United Nations rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) and other standards.

These methods include:

- the use of internationally standardised documents in international trade;
- the use of internationally standardised codes in commercial dealings e.g. codes for countries, currencies, measurement units, and INCOTERMS abbreviations;
- the use of standardised data elements in trade documents;
- the use of internationally introduced methods and procedures in accordance with the Trade Facilitation Recommendations issued by the United Nations/European Economic Commission Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business; and
- the use of electronic data interchange in accordance with international EDIFACT standards.

# UN REPOSITORY ON NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEES

Last Update: Older than 2013

**Coordinating agency:** Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Czech Republic

**Working structure of the group:** Board of representatives of responsible sectors

**Permanent technical secretariat:** The Secretariat of FITPRO is a separate department of Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic.

## **Funding:**

**Budget:** Yes

**Items covered by the budget:** The Permanent technical Secretariat is financed by the Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic, whereas other activities are covered by incomes from seminars, symposiums, consultations, participation in various projects among others.

## **Objectives / Focus:**

**Objectives:** Support of implementation of Trade Facilitation in the Czech Republic.

**Working plan:** Yes

**Monitoring and evaluation:** Field and attitude researches, surveys, studies, etc.

**Reporting form and supervisory authority:** Chairman and some Presidium members participate in its sessions.

## **Membership / Composition:**

### **Public or quasi-public agencies:**

Ministry of Trade and Industry;  
Ministry of Transport;  
Ministry of Finance;  
Ministry of the Interior;  
Directorate-General of Customs;  
Czech office for standards;  
Metrology and testing; and  
University of Economics.

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

Bank association;  
Private firms;  
Service providers;  
Communication companies; and  
User companies.

**Level of seniority of participants:** Experts

## Participation:

**Frequency of meetings:** Once every three months. Special session may be organised as the group deems necessary.

**Level of participation:** Satisfactory

**Meetings format:** Focus group

## Promotion / Communication:

**Communication channels to keep stakeholders informed of TF meetings:** By Internet through FITPRO website

**Interface with other working groups/committees on similar issues:** Exchange of information among Secretariats

**Undertake information sessions to stakeholders or general public:** Occasionally

## Benefits:

### Impact:

Effective dissemination of new information and recommendations regarding trade facilitation;  
Exchange of experiences and implementation of best practices; and  
Making available databases (i.e. Trade Register) for 50 regional Czech Points managed by FITPRO, which supply services for entrepreneurs, small businessman, and exporters among others.

**Concrete operational outcomes:** Business partners can obtain the following services from the FITPRO secretariat for a fee:

information from the UNECE, including the opportunity of using a comprehensive archive of written documents from the relevant United Nations' working party. All information about the development and projects of facilitation procedures which have not yet been processed  
information about standards and standard creation concerning the rationalisation of international trade, EDI and UN/EDIFACT including standards for paper documents in international trade  
specialist publications devoted to the rationalisation of international trade, EDI and UN/EDIFACT  
standard advice on procedural facilitation, EDI and standardisation  
the organisation of special seminars on the theme of rationalising international trade, electronic trade, EDI and UN/EDIFACT, arranging contacts between EDI users and service providers, co-operation with specialist organisations

## Lessons learned:

**Success factors:** Information, studies, new knowledge.

**Lessons learned from your experience:** The main events organised by FITPRO Secretariat from

the beginning of this year:

ASEM Customs Trade Day - conference on the theme e-Customs, e-governments for 100 participants (Customs experts and exporters);

19th symposium EDI(Fact and EB) on theme e-invoicing for 120 participants (IT experts, providers of IT services, users);

Advisory work for Ministry of Finance, Ministry of the Interior;

Function as Secretariat of National Body for e-invoice and support for stakeholders of European Multi stakeholders e-invoicing Forum.

## **Future plans:**

**Plans for further development:** To implement the e-Archiving and other activities according to actual need.

## **Contact information:**

**Contact Information:** FITPRO

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