



**TOLLETATEN**  
NORWEGIAN CUSTOMS

# Experiences from Norway's NTFC

Panel Session hosted by Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation during UNCTADs NTFC Global Forum 2022

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**Norway has a long history of engaging the private sector in streamlining trade procedures. Walk us through how Norway started on that journey and how the NTFC was developed. What has enabled the successful expansion of its mandate?**

# History: The Customs Council

- Legal basis: Customs Act of 1966
- Inclusiveness: Already then, an element of inclusion of the private sector: *«Persons with insight in the problems of the businesses and transporters should be included in the Council.»*
- Purpose was to have decision authority, but other foras replaced the work.
- Subsequently, the Council was formally dissolved with newer legislation

# Establishment of the NTFC – participation

- Ratification of TFA in Norway: 16 December 2015
  - Parliamentary decision: “Even though it does not say in the article in the TFA, it is implied that the private sector is represented” (p 23)
  - NTFC established in 2018
  - Legal basis for NTFC: Customs Act Section 12-16 and Customs Regulations Section 12-16-1
- Document related to the establishment of the NTFC says the following about participation:
  - “There shall be an open approach to participation both in terms of permanent representatives and participation dependent on cases discussed.”
  - Private sector representing stakeholders dealing with import, export, logistics and transport shall be represented»
- Current practice:
  - The private sector is mainly represented by businesses organisations, but we have opened for presentations e.g. from specific companies if relevant to the topics discussed.



# Governmental participants

- Broad participation from relevant ministries:
  - Ministry of Foreign affairs
  - Ministry of Finance
  - Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
  - Ministry of Agriculture and Food
  - Ministry of Justice and Public Security
  - Ministry of Transport
  - Ministry of Culture
  - Ministry of Health and Care Services
- and their agencies, e.g.:
  - Statistics Norway
  - Innovation Norway
  - Norwegian Agriculture Agency
  - Norwegian Food Safety Authority
  - Norwegian Medicines Agency
  - Norwegian Police Service
  - Norwegian National Security Authority





# Business participants

- Representative Business Organisations:
  - The Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise and affiliated organizations
  - The Enterprise Federation of Norway (Virke)
  - Logistics and Transport Companies Association
  - Norwegian Industry Association
  - Norwegian Seafood Federation
  - Norwegian Truckowners Association
  - Norwegian Shipowners Association
  - Chambers of Commerce
  - Norstella – Network for trade, industry, transport and service
  - Norwegian Association of SMEs
- Companies with special challenges, e.g.
  - Norwegian Postal Service
  - Large importers/exporters with their own customs department





# Key success factors

- Clear commitments from Parliament, governmental authorities and head level of business organizations etc with formal adoption.
- Delegated responsibilities to practitioners
- Both strategic issues and specific issues are addressed, to maintain broad relevance
- Meeting point of representatives with common interest
- Flexibility for participation: No personally selected members of the committee
- All countries are different – no size fits all



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