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Bosnia and Herzegovina Trade Facilitation Journey Map

Critical challenges

- Lack of capacity (resources, IT, trained personnel)
- Reduce all controls (the red tape, time, and costs associated with cross-border trade)
- Lack of strategic approach of institutions in charge of TF
- Resistance to change

Addressing the challenges

- Technical assistance and capacity building
- Effective communication between gov. Institutions and business community
- Change strategic management at all levels, need coordinated implementation
- Managing, monitoring, evaluating, and decision-making structures

Donor coordination
Financial support
Lack of resources, IT infrastructure, and trained personnel
High cost for business community
Simplification and digitalisation of cross-border procedures
Pre-arrival processing
Allocating resources, engaging stakeholders
Managing, monitoring and evaluation

Needs assessments
Single Window
Publicly to demonstrate the commitment
Establishing effective governance structures and processes

Insufficient or no funding
“Threat” to agencies’ sovereignty
A loss of power/possible, impediment to regulatory policies
Trade Facilitation Structure Role and Function

1. **TFC Leadership Role – MoFTER BiH**
   Plan the activities and management of the general and structural aspects of the TF thematic experts’ groups

2. **Thematic experts’ group role**
   Work on TF implementation by identifying the standard, and best practices, developing recommendations, and practically implementing the TF measures

3. **ITA – Customs**
   Customs is the key implementing agency of the TFA, and together with the regulatory agencies, collectively ensures smooth and effective implementation of the TFA measures

4. **Regulatory agencies**
   Regulatory agencies are implementing and enforcing the various measures outlined by the Trade Facilitation Board and the thematic experts’ groups
ARTICLE 1: PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

1. Publication

2. Information Available Through Internet

3. Enquiry Points

4. Notification

Value-added services – i.e. Market Access Map

With the support from the EU-funded Project - Trade Portal is under development
ARTICLE 2: OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT INFORMATION BEFORE ENTRY INTO FORCE AND CONSULTATIONS

1. Opportunity to Comment and Information before Entry into Force

2. Consultations

BIH Fully compliant – eKonsultacije - https://www.ekonsultacije.gov.ba/
ARTICLE 3: ADVANCE RULINGS

- The good's tariff classification and The origin of the good (Customs) - compliant

- Advance Valuation Rulings is not applied (not mandatory)

Challenge: Digitalization of the Advance Ruling procedure and BTI (CEFTA BTI under development)
(a) an administrative appeal to or review by an administrative authority higher than or independent of the official or office that issued the decision;

and/or

• (b) a judicial appeal or review of the decision

Compliant

• Challenge – digitalization of the procedure
ARTICLE 5: OTHER MEASURES TO ENHANCE IMPARTIALITY, NON-DISCRIMINATION AND TRANSPARENCY

1. Notifications for enhanced controls or inspections

2. Detention

*Not compliant* - Manual, paper-based processing / procedures

3. Test Procedures

In BIH, 14 laboratories are certified in checking food quality, including the ITA BIH lab
ARTICLE 6: DISCIPLINES ON FEES AND CHARGES IMPOSED ON OR IN CONNECTION WITH IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION AND PENALTIES

6.1 General Disciplines on Fees and Charges Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation

- **Compliant** - To be published on the BIH Trader Portal

6.2 Specific Disciplines on Fees and Charges for Customs Processing Imposed on or in Connection with Importation and Exportation

- **Not compliant** (because complex regulatory environment in BIH) - An analysis should be performed including inspections
- CEFTA Decision on Trade costs in process of discussion

6.3 Penalty Disciplines

- **Fully compliant** - The penalties are defined in the Customs Policy Law
ARTICLE 7: RELEASE AND CLEARANCE OF GOODS

1. Pre-arrival Processing – to be drafted within EU assistance on Legal and procedural framework

2. Electronic Payment – **Fully compliant** for customs, apart of regulatory agencies

3. Separation of Release from Final Determination of Customs Duties, Taxes, Fees, and Charges – **Fully compliant**

4. Risk Management – to be drafted within EU assistance, current project and forthcoming twinning EU IPA Project

5. Post-clearance Audit – **Not compliant** - TA needed in using Risk Management technique for identification of non-compliant companies, subject to PCA

6. Establishment and Publication of Average Release Times, TRS performed on January 2023, with TA from EU project – establishment of Dynamic TRSt (time difference using the timestamps from the IT systems)
7. With assistance from EU, AEO legal, procedural, and conceptual framework was established - compliant

The first AEO Certificate will be issued by the end of September 2023

Mutual Recognition among CEFTA Parties developed

Currently, the focus is on Small and Medium Enterprises (80+% of the total number of enterprises in BIH)

8. Expedited Shipments

Planned upgrade of ASYCUDA World (e-Commerce module as upgrade of ASYCUDA)

9. Perishable Goods – in order to be integrated in ASYCUDA sistem with EU assistance:

(a) customs procedures for Perishable Goods are drafted

(b) regulatory agencies’ provision for Perishable Goods are drafted
ARTICLE 8: BORDER AGENCY COOPERATION

1. Each Member shall ensure that its authorities and agencies responsible for border controls and procedures dealing with the importation, exportation, and transit of goods cooperate with one another

   - Infrastructure limitations, TA needed - interconnectivity and interoperability between RA and UINO
   - Paper-based processing and procedures

2. Each Member shall, to the extent possible and practicable, cooperate on mutually agreed terms with other Members with whom it shares a common border with a view to coordinating procedures at border crossings to facilitate trade

   (a) alignment of working days and hours - Not aligned with the regulatory agencies of the Republic of Croatia, but aligned with CEFTA Parties

   (b) alignment of procedures and formalities – Partially compliant, TA needed

   (c) development and sharing of common facilities

   (d) joint controls;

   (e) establishment of one-stop border post control.

Problems related to infrastructure
ARTICLE 9: MOVEMENT OF GOODS INTENDED FOR IMPORT UNDER CUSTOMS CONTROL

Each Member shall, to the extent practicable, and provided all regulatory requirements are met, allow goods intended for import to be moved within its territory under customs control from a customs office of entry to another customs office in its territory from where the goods would be released or cleared.

- **Fully Compliant** – Customs Policy Law (CPL)
- With support from EU-funded Project, a new Customs Policy Law is drafted will be fully compliant with EU UCC
- The forthcoming EU-funded twinning project will assist BIH in drafting the Implementing Regulation of the CPL in line with EU UCC IR
ARTICLE 10: FORMALITIES CONNECTED WITH IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION, AND TRANSIT

1. Formalities and Documentation Requirements – not fully compliant, TA needed

2. Acceptance of Copies – not fully compliant, TA needed

3. Use of International Standards – fully compliant

5. Pre-shipment Inspection – not fully compliant, TA needed

6. Use of Customs Brokers – compliant

7. Common Border Procedures and Uniform Documentation Requirements – fully compliant

8. Rejected Goods – fully compliant

9. Temporary Admission of Goods and Inward and Outward Processing – fully compliant, TA on digitalization procedures needed
The World Bank has offered assistance in creating a Blueprint for Single Window for all CEFTA Parties.

Currently, the World Bank's offer is under consideration by the relevant institutions in BiH.

Next step: Decision on establishment SW
ARTICLE 11: FREEDOM OF TRANSIT

- Fully compliant
  - EU New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) V. 5.13 operational
  - With assistance from the EU, planned upgrade to NCTS V. 6.0 in 2024
  - Join the EU Common Transit System after NCTS Conformance testing
ARTICLE 12: CUSTOMS COOPERATION

1. Measures Promoting Compliance and Cooperation
2. Exchange of Information
3. Verification
4. Request
5. Protection and Confidentiality
6. Provision of information

Fully compliant

7. Postponement or Refusal of a Request
8. Reciprocity
9. Administrative Burden
10. Limitations
11. Unauthorized Use or Disclosure
12. Bilateral and Regional Agreements

Fully compliant