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# “Trade facilitation agreement and National Committee for trade facilitation”

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**Albania**

8 June 2016



# Trade facilitation agreement

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- Albania has ratified the WTO TFA, on 4 February 2016 in Albanian Parliament
- The instrument of acceptance has been submitted to WTO secretariat on 10 May 2016
- Albania is become the 78 WTO members ratify the TFA



# National Committee of Trade Facilitation



- The Order of the Prime Minister No.80, date 12 May 2016 has established the Interinstitutional Group for Trade Policy Coordination and Facilitation ,( here National Committee)
- The draft has been consulted with USAID and internally,





# National Committee of Trade Facilitation (composition)

- The NC to be chaired by the Minister responsible for trade,
- Composed by state institutions and private sector,
- Sectorial working groups to be considered based on needs of the private sector



# Institutional arrangements of NC



- National Committee will meet 4 times per year
- Coordinates with private sector the agenda and issues for discussion,
- The chair will periodically report in prime minister office for the implementation of defined objectives.
- Based on good governance principles:
  - Permanent consultation,
  - Prior coordination,
  - Monitoring and evaluation
  - Reporting of the results



# The main proposed functions



## 1. Propose measures to facilitate trade through:

- coordination of activities within WTO trade facilitation agreement context,
- promotion of measures to establish the Single Window customs,
- supervise the enforcement of activities to facilitate trade agreement with Kosovo,
- supervise trade facilitation activities under CEFTA;



# The main proposed functions (to be continued)

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## 2. Coordinate trade policy-making at the national level through:

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- preliminary discussion of any new trade policy having direct or indirect impact on trade,
- periodic assessment of the impact of sectorial policies in Albania's trade policy,
- assessment at an early stage of any new sectorial policy and its related impact on trade policy;



# The main proposed functions (to be continued)



## 3. Consultation on trade policy with business community through:

- introduction of new policies and effective discussion with trade and business committee on its impact,
- discussion of any internal trade barriers created by sectorial legislation,
- presentation and discussion of trade barriers created in the trade with trading partners;





# The main proposed functions (to be continued)

4. Monitor trade policy through preparation of annual reports on the progress of trade policy, in particular the administrative capacities.



# The IG mission



- To respond to the commitment of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
- To respond to regional trade facilitation agenda,
- To respond to the needs for strengthening of administrative capacities in trade policy.
- Respond to private sector needs

# Institutional Group of Trade Facilitation



## *Next steps*

- Draft rules of procedures, including decision making and reporting,
- Draft operational action plan for 2016
- Prior consultation with private sector on 2016 agenda



# Challenges ahead

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- Keep the reform agenda momentum,
- Maintain private sector committed and active
- Align short term needs with long run objectives for competitiveness,
- Build trust among stakeholders





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Thank you

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