“Trade facilitation agreement and National Committee for trade facilitation”

Albania

8 June 2016
Trade facilitation agreement

• 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)

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

• 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

- 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
Thank you

Nevin Omuri

Nevin.omuri@ekonomia.gov.al