

NATIONAL COORDINATION BODY FOR TRADE FACILITATION (NTFC)

ACTION PLAN FOR 2022 AND 2023

III - EXPERT WORKING GROUP FOR CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

Chair: Snežana Karanović, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Finance

The Expert Working Group for Customs Procedures deals with issues and proposes initiatives designed to enhance and facilitate customs procedures, broader application of simplified customs procedures for import, export and transit of goods, harmonization and increase of predictability in actions of customs authorities.

	Planned activity	Measures for implementation of activities	Competent institutions	Result indicator
1.	Mutual recognition and promotion of the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of the agreement on mutual recognition of approvals of Authorized Economic Operators for Security and Safety (AEOS) with North Macedonia- Development of a protocol for the validation of mutual recognition of AEOS- Establishing mandatory exchange of information related to AEOS• Signing of an agreement on mutual recognition of approvals of Authorized Economic Operators for Security and Safety (AEOS) with the	Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance	<p>Signed Protocol for validation of mutual recognition of AEOS with North Macedonia</p> <p>Accelerated flow of goods and reduced detention time of trucks at border crossings with North Macedonia for holders of AEOS status</p> <p>Agreement on mutual recognition of AEOS signed with the Republic of Albania and protocol for validation of mutual recognition of AEOS</p> <p>Number of concluded agreements on mutual recognition of AEO programs</p>

		<p>Republic of Albania:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a protocol for the validation of mutual recognition of AEOs - Establishment of mandatory exchange of information related to AEOs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and protection of logos for the national AEO program • Introduction of additional benefits for AEO approval holders 		<p>Published Explanations of the Customs Administration, in order to enable the holders of AEO approvals to use all the benefits</p>
2.	<p>Acceleration of the flow of goods at the border crossing Presevo-Tabanovce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a special entry and exit lane for road freight vehicles in TIR and T1 (joint transit) procedures, companies with AEO status, and in the transport of perishable goods • Establishing joint control 	<p>Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance, NTFC members, Coordination body for border crossings</p>	<p>Accelerated flow of goods at the border and reduced retention time of trucks at border crossings (progress verification mechanism based on the Time Release Study and the Trading Across Border Indicator on World Bank's Doing Business List)</p>
	<p>IT connection of the Plant Protection Administration of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining a set of data to be exchanged between the Customs Administration and the Plant Protection Administration; 	<p>Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance Directorate for Plant</p>	<p>Defined data set to be exchanged Online data exchange system available</p>

3.	the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Customs Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a system for online exchange of information between the Plant Protection Administration and the Customs Administration; • Training of officials of the Customs Administration, the Plant Protection Administration, as well as the private sector on new electronic tools 	Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management	Reduction of the average time required for the issuance of documents of the Plant Protection Administration, as well as the customs procedure for these goods
4.	IT connection of the Directorate for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security and the Customs Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining a set of data to be submitted to the Customs Administration by the Directorate for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security; • Establishment of a system for online connection of the Directorate for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security and the Customs Administration; • Training of officials of the Customs Administration and the Directorate for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security on new electronic tools 	Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance Directorate for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security	<p>Defined set of data to be exchanged</p> <p>Online electronic data delivery system available</p> <p>Reduction of the average time required for the document of the Directorate for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security to be available to participants in foreign trade, as well as the customs procedure for these goods</p>

5.	<p>IT connection of the Customs Administration with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterinary Administration, Ministry of Agriculture and • Border Sanitary Inspection, Ministry of Health (up to a level dependent on the Customs Administration) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining a set of data to be submitted to the Customs Administration by the Veterinary Administration and the Sanitary Inspection; • Establishment of an online connection system • Training of officials of the Customs Administration and the Veterinary Administration and Sanitary Inspection 	<p>Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Veterinary Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>Sanitary Inspection, Ministry of Health</p>	<p>Online electronic application system available</p> <p>Defined set of data to be exchanged</p> <p>Reduction of the average time required for the issuance of documents of the Veterinary Administration and Sanitary Inspection, as well as the customs procedure for these goods</p>
6.	<p>Reducing the time required to issue binding tariff information decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a system for <i>on-line</i> electronic submission of requests for issuing binding tariff information decision, and mandatory supporting documents • Establishment of an electronic (<i>backend</i>) system for storing and processing of submitted requests 	<p>Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance</p>	<p><i>On-line</i> system for electronic filing of requests for issuing binding tariff information decisions available</p> <p>Reduction of the average time required to</p>

		<p>for issuing binding tariff information decision, generation of final binding tariff information decision, reports and the like, with automatic monitoring of the status of requests and validity of decisions and the possibility of advanced search, sorting and exporting of data in all segments of the system, by all the case properties being stored</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connecting the electronic backend system for processing requests and issuing binding tariff information decisions with the online electronic database of issued binding tariff information decisions, enabling automatic updating of the database of issued binding tariff information decisions• Training of the officials in the Customs Administration and the private sector on new electronic tools related to binding tariff information decisions		<p>issue a binding tariff information upon receipt of a complete request</p>
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7.	<p>Analysis of the current situation and undertaking of the measures and activities that will, enable electronic communication between commercial entities and the Payments Collection Department of the Customs Administration regarding collection of claims in relation to due customs duties, interest on late payments, repayment of overpaid duties, re-entry of incorrect payments, warnings for settlement of customs debt and communication with the guarantor bank</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of an electronic registry office as needed • If necessary, drafting the necessary forms for electronic communication on the stated grounds with commercial entities, with identification of the necessary security levels of such documents 	<p>Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance</p>	<p>Accelerated communication of commercial entities with the Payments Collection Department of the Customs Administration</p>
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8.	Work on establishing the National Single Window (NSW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of the Blueprint report• Preparatory activities for the implementation of the NSW	Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure and NTFC members	Developed and published specifications for the procurement of professional and technical support for the implementation of the NSW
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