

ACTION PLAN OF THE NATIONAL TRADE FACILITATION BODY FOR 2020 and 2021

III – EXPERT WORKING GROUP FOR CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

Chair: Snezana Karanovic, Acting 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 Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of the Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Authorized Economic Operators for Safety and Security (AEOS) with North Macedonia<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Development of protocols for validation of mutual recognition of AEOS- Implementation of the validation procedure in order to confirm equivalence of the legislation and implementation of the AEO programs of the signatory states- Establishing mandatory exchange of information regarding the AEOS through the SEED system• Preparatory activities for the purpose of conclusion of agreements on mutual recognition of AEO programs with the PR China and/or other countries where there is an economic interest	Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance	Signed protocol for validation of mutual recognition of AEOS with North Macedonia Expedited flow of goods and reduced retention time of cargo vehicles at border crossings with North Macedonia for AEOS status holders Number of concluded agreements on mutual

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and protection of the logo for the national program of the authorized economic operators • Further promotion and training of the private sector with regard to the procedure for obtaining the status of authorized economic operator, benefits for status holders, as well as concluded mutual recognition agreements 		<p>recognition of AEO programs</p> <p>Number of trainings and events held on the topic of authorized economic operators and number of participants attending the trainings</p>
2.	Acceleration of flow of goods at the Preševno-Tabanovce border crossing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a separate entry and exit lane for cargo vehicles in TIR and T1 (common transit) procedures, companies with AEO status, and for the transport of perishable goods 	Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance, Member Institutions of the National Trade Facilitation Body, Coordination Body for Border Crossings	<p>Accelerated flow of goods at the border and reduced retention time of trucks at border crossings</p> <p>(progress verification mechanism based on the Time Release Study and the World Bank's <i>Doing Business</i> List, <i>Trading Across Border Indicator</i>)</p>
3.	Improve the auction process for the sale of customs goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of an electronic auction system for sale of goods confiscated by a final decision in a customs misdemeanor procedure or goods waived by a party for the benefit of the State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of IT tools for conducting electronic auctions - Development of instructions and/or guidelines for conducting electronic auctions 	Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance	The number of successfully completed electronic auctions for the sale of goods and the revenue generated from electronic auctions

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		- Informing the public about the electronic auction system		
4.	Information technology connection between the Plant Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Customs Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of an <i>on-line</i> electronic filing system for inspection by the Border Phytosanitary Inspection; Defining a set of data to be shared between the Customs Administration and the Plant Protection Directorate; Establishment of an <i>on-line</i> information exchange system between the Plant Protection Directorate and the Customs Administration; Training of the officials from the Customs Administration, Plant Protection Directorate, as well as the private sector on new electronic tools 	<p>Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Plant Protection Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management</p>	<p><i>On-line</i> electronic filing system available</p> <p>Defined data set to be exchanged</p> <p><i>On-line</i> data exchange system available</p> <p>Reduction of the average time required to issue the documents by the Plant Protection Directorate, as well as the time required to complete customs procedure for those goods</p>
5.	Information technology connection between the Directorate for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security and the Customs Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining the data set to be submitted to the Customs Administration by the Directorate for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security; Establishment of the system for <i>on-line</i> connection between the Directorate for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security and the Customs Administration; Training of the officials of the Customs Administration and the Directorate for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security on new electronic tools 	<p>Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Directorate for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security</p>	<p>Defined data set to be exchanged</p> <p><i>On-line</i> system for the electronic data exchange available</p> <p>Reduction of the average time required for the document from the Directorate for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security to be available to participants in foreign trade,</p>

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				as well as the time required to complete customs procedure for those goods
6.	<p>Information technology connection of the Customs Administration with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Water Management; and • Border Sanitary Inspection, Ministry of Health (up to the level defined by the Customs Administration) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining the data set to be submitted to the Customs Administration by the Veterinary Directorate and Sanitary Inspection; • Establishing of the system for <i>on-line</i> connection • Training of the officers of the Customs Administration and the Veterinary Directorate and Sanitary Inspection 	<p>Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Veterinary Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management</p> <p>Sanitary Inspection, Ministry of Health</p>	<p><i>On-line</i> system for electronic filing of requests available</p> <p>Defined data set to be exchanged</p> <p><i>On-line</i> electronic filing system available</p> <p>Reduction of the average time required for issuing of documents by the Veterinary Directorate and Sanitary Inspection, as well as the time required to complete customs procedure for these goods</p>
7.	Implementation of the Time Release Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a mandatory procedure for measuring the time required for customs clearance and release of goods (<i>Time Release Study</i>) according to the methodology of the World Customs Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing of the Working Group and defining the scope of the Time Release Study - Development of Time Release Study questionnaires 	<p>Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management - Veterinary Directorate, Plant Protection Directorate; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Internal Affairs</p> <p>- Border Police Directorate;</p>	Publicized Time Release Study with results on average time required for customs clearance and release of goods and recommendations for improvement

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the Time Release Study at selected locations and for defined customs procedures - Entry, electronic processing and analysis of data and generation of the report with results and recommendations for improvement of procedures carried out by competent authorities - Informing the public of the results of the Time Release Study and publication of the report 	Belgrade Airport; private sector representatives and terminal operators	
8.	Reducing the time required to issue binding tariff information decisions	<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 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 • 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 	Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance	<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 issue a binding tariff information upon receipt of a complete request</p>

	Planned activity	Measures for implementation of activities	Competent institutions	Result indicator
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of the officials in the Customs Administration and the private sector on new electronic tools related to binding tariff information decisions 		
9.	<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 <p>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>	<p>Customs Administration, Ministry of Finance</p>	<p>Accelerated communication of commercial entities with the Payments Collection Department of the Customs Administration</p>