**ITALY - Status MAY 2013**

| **Questions** | **Answers for ITALY** |
| --- | --- |
| **Background** | |
| **What is the official name of the national trade facilitation coordination mechanism?** | (It.) - Tavolo Strategico Nazionale sulla Facilitazione al Commercio Internazionale |
| **What motivated the establishment of the TF working group?** | Creating a place coordinated by a public entity (Ministry of Economic Development), where it could be possible to discuss primarily on the problems that economic operators encounter in the export-import process, and at the same time, to embody and to spread Guidelines, Recommendations and Standards in the area of trade facilitation, coming from the UN. |
| **What year was it established?** | 2009 |
| **Do you have other national bodies dealing with WTO issues and/or with TF?** | Italian Customs Agency – Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| **Was the working group based on a previously existing multi-agency group/committee (for example a trade and transport facilitation committee)?** | It was created after the organization of 2 national/international conferences coordinated by Semproitalia, the Italian TF Body related to the UN/Cefact. |
| **What is the current status of the working group (running, pilot phase, study)** | Running |
| **Institutional Framework** | |
| **Has the working group been set up as an ad hoc group, or a legal entity/organization?** | “Ad hoc” group set up by the Ministry of Economic Development |
| **What specific documents were necessary to institutionalize the group and which body and at which level made the decisions?** | By a Ministerial Act (Decree) dated 23/12/2009 |
| **What is the scope/mandate of the working group?** | a) to analyze and plan the necessary activities to ensure greater coverage among national operators, of the knowledge and use of procedures and operational tools, developed in major international fora - Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE), European Union (EU), World Trade Organization (WTO), World Customs Organization (WCO), etc. - in the facilitation  procedures for foreign trade;  b) to investigate the problems indicated by the Enterprises regarding the procedures for foreign trade;  c) to contribute to the identification of national and international initiatives in order to overcome these problems. |
| **Does the working group have terms of reference?** | In carrying out the tasks referred to the previous box, the group is guided by the principles based on the UN Recommendations (in particular Rec 33 – Single Window) and ISO standards - which comply with the so-called international standards best practices. |
| **Which is the coordinating agency** | Ministry of Economic Development |
| **What is the structure of the group  (Chair/co-chair, sub-groups etc.)?** | 4 sub-groups |
| **Do you have a permanent technical secretariat?** | Yes, there is a technical secretariat . |
| **Funding** | |
| **Do you have a formal budget for the operations of the working group?** | No |
| **If yes, what major items are covered by it?** |  |
| **What are the sources of funding?** |  |
| **Objectives / Focus** | |
| **What are the objectives of the working group?** | The simplification, harmonization and facilitatation all the import-export procedures. |
| **Does the working group have a  working plan?** | Each sub-group has a working plan |
| **How do you monitor progress in implementing the working group?** | By a plenary meeting in which every single group reports the achieved results |
| **How often, and in which form and to whom is the working group reporting?** | Whenever a specific task has been accomplished, the groups report to the steering committee. |
| **Membership / Composition** | |
| **What public or quasi-public agencies participate in the working group?** | Ministry of Economic Development, Environment, Foreign Affairs; Health; Transportation; Food and Agricultural Policies, Ministry of Interior, Public Administration, Customs Agency, “Guardia di Finanza” (enforcement agency under the authority of the Minister of Economy and Finance); Agency for Food Control; ICE-Agenzia – Italian Trade Promotion Agency; - SIMEST (finance institution for the promotion and development of talian businesses abroad); SACE – (Italian agency for export credit and investment insurance); Invitalia (Italian Agency for FDI attraction); Association of the Italian Chambers of Commerce |
| **What private associations or entities participate?** | Logistic and Forwarders Companies Federation, ABI-Associazione Bancaria Italiana (Italian Association Banks); Consorzio CBI-ABI (Consortium Customer to Business Interaction) Federation of Italian Industries; Confcommercio (Italian General Confederation of Commerce, Tourism and Sevices); Confapi (Federation of Italian SMEs); AICE (Italian Association of exporting companies) |
| **What is the level of seniority of the participants?** | Head of the Office and Ceo |
| **Participation** |  |
| **Does the working group meet regularly?** | Yes |
| **What is the level of participation in each of the meetings?** | 70-80% of the members of each sub-group is guaranteed |
| **Do you use different meetings formats (such as focus groups, brainstorming, Citizen jury's etc?)?** | No |
| **Promotion / Communication** | |
| **How do you keep all stakeholders informed of the working groups' meetings and new documents, upcoming events etc?** | By conferences, seminars, reports, documents and communication on the website. |
| **How does the group interface with other working groups / committees working on similar issues?** | See above |
| **Do you undertake special information session for the general public or particular stakeholders?** | We normally organize general conferences and “ad hoc” seminar to inform people and stakeholders |
| **Benefits** | |
| **What was the impact of the work of the group?** | We succeeded in creating a Public – Private partnership, fundamental to overcome critical points and to lighten admin. burdens affecting international trade procedures. |
| **How does it benefit your countries' responsiveness to the WTO negotiation process?** | The experience gained within the group was important to facilitate the implementation of WTO documents such as questionnaires, and working papers. |
| **Have there been concrete operational outcomes?** | several procedures have been simplified |
| **Lessons learned** | |
| **What are the crucial success factors?** | The involvement of all the actors was the success-key |
| **What are the greatest obstacles?** | The fragmentation of responsibilities between all administrations |
| **What are the main lessons learned?** | Close collaboration leads to concrete results |
| **Future plans** | |
| **What are the plans for further development of the working group?** | Developing a tool to facilitate international trade of Italian companies |
| **Contact information** | |
| **Please indicate the contact details of the chairman, president or secretariat of the Committee** | **Segreteria ITH-Italia**  **Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico**  **Dipartimento per l'impresa e l'internazionalizzazione**  **Direzione Generale per le Politiche di Internazionalizzazione e la Promozione degli Scambi**  **Viale Boston 25 - 00144 ROMA EUR - ITALY**  **Tel. 00 39 06 5993 2400**  **Fax 00 39 06 5964 7512**  **e-mail: segreteria.ith-italia@mise.gov.it** |