



**REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
MINISTRY OF TRADE**

# **National Committees on Trade Facilitation and Turkish Experience**

*35th UN/CEFACT Forum  
05.10.2020*

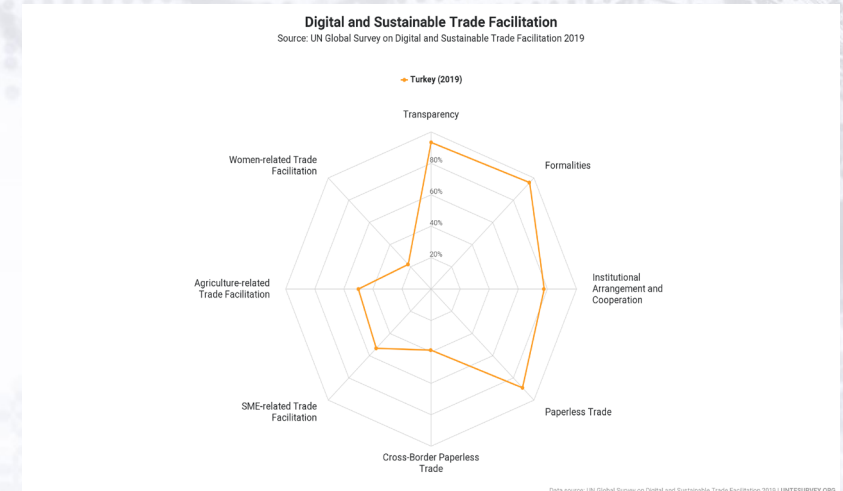
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# I. Trade Facilitation and Turkey

- ❑ Party to all relevant trade facilitation agreements;
  - ✓ WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
  - ✓ WCO Revised Kyoto Convention
  - ✓ SAFE Framework of Standards
  - ✓ UN Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods

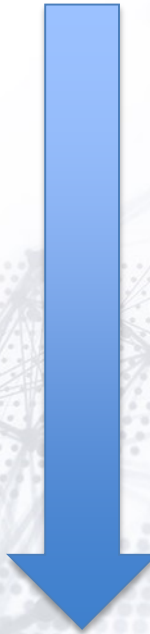
- ❑ High implementation rate on trade facilitation measures;
  - ✓ *WTO TFA* – All measures in Category A
  - ✓ *OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators 2019* – Average Score of 1.6 out of 2.0
  - ✓ *UN Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2019* – Trade Facilitation Score of 80,65%





## II. Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation Establishment

WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT  
Art. 23/2



- ☐ *Joint meetings between relevant authorities*
- ☐ *Preparation of Draft Circular*
- ☐ *Sending Draft Circular to Prospective Members for their remarks*
- ☐ *Amendments to Draft Circular*
- ☐ *Sending Draft Circular to Presidency for publishing*

CIRCULAR OF PRESIDENCY  
ESTABLISHING  
COORDINATION COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION



## II. Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation

### Members

Committee is chaired by;



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### Members

#### Public Sector

- ☐ Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- ☐ Ministry of Environment and Urbanization
- ☐ Ministry of Finance and Treasury
- ☐ Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ☐ Ministry of Health
- ☐ Ministry of Industry and Technology
- ☐ Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
- ☐ Presidency of Strategy and Budget
- ☐ Turkish Standards Institution
- ☐ Small and Medium Sized Industry Development Organization

#### Private Sector

- ☐ Foreign Economic Relations Board
- ☐ Turkish Exporters Assembly
- ☐ The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
- ☐ International Transporters' Association
- ☐ Association of International Forwarding and Logistics Service Providers
- ☐ The Banks Association of Turkey
- ☐ Associations of Customs Consultancy
- ☐ Turkish Industry and Business Association
- ☐ Independent Industrialist and Businessmen Association
- ☐ Maritime Association of Shipowners and Agents
- ☐ Chamber of Shipping
- ☐ Turkish Foreign Trade Association

### «Observers»

International Investors Association



## II. Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation

### Structure

#### General Board

- ❑ Coordinating and establishing a trade facilitation strategy and work plan.

#### Technical Committee

Coordinating the technical work being done within Committee.

#### Working Groups

- ❑ Main bodies for technical work.

#### Secretariat

Logistic and technical support



**WG on  
Transparency**



**WG on Customs  
and Foreign Trade**



**WG on  
Infrastructure and  
Logistics**



## II. Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation

### Objectives

- ❑ Overseeing implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Turkish Customs Area,
  - ✓ Harmonized implementation of the WTO TFA
  - ✓ Going beyond the WTO TFA
- ❑ Coordinating implementation procedures among related government agencies,
  - ✓ A policy coordination mechanism for government agencies
- ❑ Being a platform for public-private sector partnership in the area of trade facilitation,
  - ✓ Dialogue between government agencies and private sector stakeholders for solving foreign trade problems



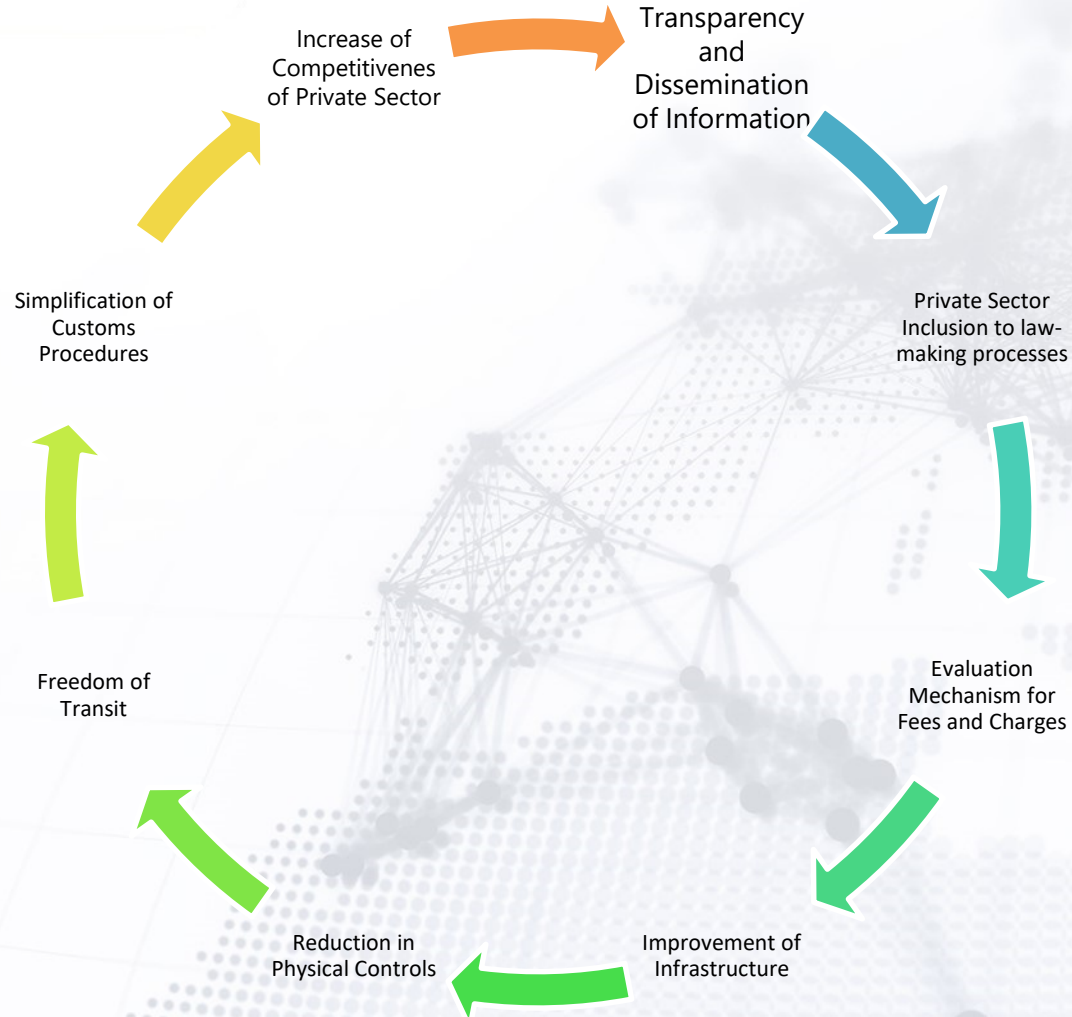
### III. Trade Facilitation Strategy and Five-Year Action Plan

- ❑ Trade Facilitation Strategy is the roadmap for the work of Committee. Strategy was created through extensive technical work done by technical working group
  - ✓ Working Group held 22 different meetings between 6th of June 2017 and 3rd of August 2017.
  - ✓ Extensive attendance of stakeholders were one of the most important side of these meetings.
  - ✓ Results of aforementioned meetings were enriched with a Trade Facilitation Workshop held between 2nd and 5th of October, 2017.
- ❑ Trade Facilitation Strategy of Turkey entered into force by approval of Board in 8th of March, 2018.
- ❑ Strategy has been updated and revised in 2019 and revised version approved on 25th of November, 2019.



# III. Trade Facilitation Strategy and Five-Year Action Plan

## Strategic Goals and Actions



□ Strategy includes 46 actions which are grouped under five main pillars;

- ✓ Provision of Transparency;
- ✓ Simplification;
- ✓ Reduction of Costs;
- ✓ Improving Cooperation;
- ✓ Capacity Building

□ Each of the actions has a respective timeline for implementation, short term (in 2020), mid term (between 2020 and 2022) or long term (until 2023)

### III. Trade Facilitation Strategy and Five-Year Action Plan

#### Strategic Goals and Actions

Two of the examples of actions included in Strategy;

Under the pillar of Provision of Transparency:

1. Establishment of Trade Information Portal	Ministry of Trade (R), Union of Chambers and Stock Exchanges of Turkey (C)	A website for Committee has been established. It has been expected that website will turn into a Trade Information Portal in future.	Goal 1 Goal 2
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Under the pillar of Simplification:

18. Provision of presentation of customs declaration and supportive documents before arrival of goods to Turkish Customs Area and introduction of new legislation and technical infrastructure for allowing pre-arrival declaration.	Ministry of Trade (R) International Transporters' Association, Association of International Forwarding and Logistics Service Providers, Chamber of Shipping, Maritime Association of Shipowners and Agents(C)	System allowing pre-arrival declaration has been established in April 2020 for goods coming from seaways. Technical work for pre-arrival declaration for airways and road are still under development.	Goal 7 Goal 8
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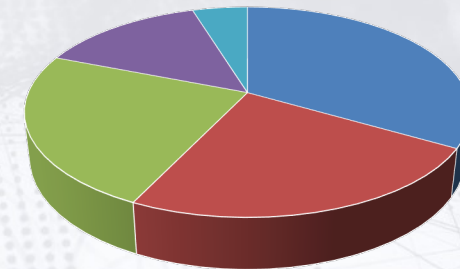


## IV. Involvement of Private Sector

### What Works - I

- ❑ As of today, private sector members are driving force within Committee.
  - ✓ Majority of action items created with the help private sector.
  - ✓ Most active members;
    - ❖ Customs Brokers Associations
    - ❖ International Transporters' Association
    - ❖ The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey
    - ❖ Turkish Exporters Assembly
- ❑ Consolidated problems and solutions within supply chain.
- ❑ Bringing raw data to table for Committee-wide analysis.

Attendance



- Customs Brokers Association
- International Transporters' Association
- The Union of Chambers and Stock Exchanges of Turkey
- Turkish Exporters' Assembly
- Others

## IV. Involvement of Private Sector

### What Works - II

- ❑ Representative from every part of supply chain
  - ✓ Understanding of trade facilitation going beyond international norms
    - ❖ Improvement of infrastructure
    - ❖ ICT Solutions
    - ❖ Emerging Technologies
  - ✓ Different views of facilitation
    - ❖ Trade facilitation definition differing between sectors.
    - ❖ e. g., logistics service providers view of trade facilitation differs from exporters', importers' and so on.
- ❑ Three-tiered approach
  - ❖ Technical, operational and executive levels of private sector joins to meetings
  - ❖ Working Groups co-chaired with public and private sector.

## IV. Involvement of Private Sector

### What Does Not Work

- ❑ Private sector bring «private interests»
  - ❖ Certain problems that have been brought by private sector only involve one or two firms and not widespread.
- ❑ Change management
  - ❖ Several reforms contradicts with certain business practices of private and/or public sector
- ❑ Participation and SMEs
  - ❖ Private sector NGOs executive boards consist of representatives of bigger traders.
  - ❖ Even though there are several policy framework and regulations established, involvement of SMEs are still low.



## V. Conclusion and Lessons Learned

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### DO

*... involve your trade community and private sector*

*... listen to your private sector*

*... institutionalize*

*... become «democratic» as much as possible*

### DO NOT

*... discriminate*

*... limit your understanding of trade facilitation*



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# Thank you for your attention. Questions?

**Hakkı GÜRKAN**

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