



**TOLL**  
**CUSTOMS**

6 October 2020

# The National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) of Norway

Norwegian Customs, Norway



- The Act on Customs Duties and Movement of Goods (Customs Act) Section 12-16
- Regulations to the Act on Customs Duties and Movement of Goods (Customs Regulations):
  - Section 12-16-1 Consultations between border agencies and the business community

- From the Parliament to
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
  - Ministry of Finance
- Mandate settled on ministerial level
- Implementation of Article 23.2 of the TFA is delegated to the Norwegian Customs:
  - The Committee is chaired by the Norwegian Customs
  - The Norwegian Customs also perform the Secretariat function

- The Norwegian NCTF meets two times per year, preferably a short time before the WTO meetings.
- NCTF acts as the general coordinating body for TF issues.
- Working groups (sub-groups):
  - Continuation of former, separately operated, groups e.g.
    - Development of new customs procedures
    - IT communication (declarations)
  - New groups are formed to take care of specific issues, e.g.
    - Revision of the customs legislation
    - Rules of origin: Regional FTAs and GSP issues

# Governmental participants

Broad participation from relevant ministries:

- Ministry of Foreign affairs
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Ministry of Justice and Public Security
- Ministry of Transport
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Health and Care Services

and their agencies, e.g.:

- Statistics Norway
- Innovation Norway
- Norwegian Agriculture Agency
- Norwegian Food Safety Authority
- Norwegian Medicines Agency
- Norwegian Police Service
- Norwegian National Security Authority



# Business participants

- Representative Business Organisations:
  - The Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise and affiliated organizations
  - The Enterprise Federation of Norway (Virke)
  - Logistics and Transport Companies Association
  - Norwegian Industry Association
  - Norwegian Seafood Federation
  - Norwegian Truckowners Association
  - Norwegian Shipowners Association
  - Chambers of Commerce
  - Norstella – Network for trade, industry, transport and service
  - Norwegian Association of SMEs
- Companies with special challenges, e.g.
  - Norwegian Postal Service
  - Large importers/exporters with their own customs department



# Major elements in the mandate

- Surveillance of the coordination and implementation of TFA in Norway:
  - “Shall” obligations, as well as
  - “Endeavour” obligations etc.
- Removal of unnecessary obstacles to the flow of goods by importation, exportation or transit
- Assessment of Norwegian Exporters’ offensive interests
- Support cooperation and development in international fora
  - WTO, WCO, OECD, ICAO, IMO, UNECE
  - Regional FTAs
- Identify needs in developing countries for technical assistance to implement TF measures

# Some issues addressed in the NCTF

- Improve the dialogue between business and border agencies
- Reorganization of Norwegian Customs
- Development of a system for immediate clearance of goods at the border
- Improve routines for post, courier dispatchments etc. with many consignees
- Simplify document checks for repetitive situations (ref. risk management)
- Improve statistical information for means of transport
- Use ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) to allow for goods to pass through unmanned border crossings in remote areas
- Tools and services for supporting Norwegian exporters
- Impact of «brexit» for operators



- Acceptance of the NCTF as the main channel for the dialogue between business and government
- Defining and structuring issues in the right fora and formats
- Some agencies and business structures have specific or limited interests in the NCTF, which nevertheless may be important
  - E.g. SMEs, postal or rail services, traders in medicines etc.
- Engaging the most relevant representatives to address a large variation of needs and interests

- Useful tool for networking
- Useful forum for sharing information on important issues, e.g. organizational and legal development
- Some issues that would not have been raised elsewhere are discussed in the committee
- Knowledge concerning developments in international trade is updated for all parties

Thank you for your attention!

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