

# Matters Arising



**Ministerial Conference  
Ninth Session  
Bali, 3-6 December 2013**

## **AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION**

MINISTERIAL DECISION OF 7 DECEMBER 2013

The Ministerial Conference,

*Having regard to* paragraph 1 of Article IX of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (the "WTO Agreement");

*Decides* as follows:

1. We hereby conclude the negotiation of an Agreement on Trade Facilitation (the "Agreement"), which is annexed hereto, subject to legal review for rectifications of a purely formal character that do not affect the substance of the Agreement.
2. We hereby establish a Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation (the "Preparatory Committee") under the General Council, open to all Members, to perform such functions as may be necessary to ensure the expeditious entry into force of the Agreement and to prepare for the efficient operation of the Agreement upon its entry into force. In particular, the Preparatory Committee shall conduct the legal review of the Agreement referred to in paragraph 1 above, receive notifications of Category A commitments, and draw up a Protocol of Amendment (the "Protocol") to insert the Agreement into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement.
3. The General Council shall meet no later than 31 July 2014 to annex to the Agreement notifications of Category A commitments, to adopt the Protocol drawn up by the Preparatory Committee, and to open the Protocol for acceptance until 31 July 2015. The Protocol shall enter into force in accordance with Article X:3 of the WTO Agreement.

# AGREEMENT ON TRADE FACILITATION

## SECTION I

**ARTICLE 1: PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION**

**ARTICLE 2: OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT, INFORMATION BEFORE ENTRY INTO FORCE  
AND CONSULTATION**

**ARTICLE 3: ADVANCE RULINGS**

**ARTICLE 4: APPEAL OR REVIEW PROCEDURES**

**ARTICLE 5: OTHER MEASURES TO ENHANCE IMPARTIALITY, NON-DISCRIMINATION AND  
TRANSPARENCY**

**ARTICLE 6: DISCIPLINES ON FEES AND CHARGES IMPOSED ON OR IN CONNECTION  
WITH IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION**

**ARTICLE 7: RELEASE AND CLEARANCE OF GOODS**

**ARTICLE 8: BORDER AGENCY COOPERATION**

**ARTICLE 9: MOVEMENT OF GOODS UNDER CUSTOMS CONTROL INTENDED FOR IMPORT**

**ARTICLE 10: FORMALITIES CONNECTED WITH IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION AND  
TRANSIT**

**ARTICLE 11: FREEDOM OF TRANSIT**

**ARTICLE 12: CUSTOMS COOPERATION**

**ARTICLE 13: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

## SECTION II

**SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT PROVISIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY  
MEMBERS AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY MEMBERS**

## Section II - 10 Information on Assistance to be Submitted to the Committee

- 10.5. The Committee shall invite relevant international and regional organizations (such as the IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, WCO, **UN Regional Commissions**, the World Bank, or their subsidiary bodies, and regional development banks) and other agencies of cooperation to provide information referred to in paragraphs 10.1, 10.2 and 10.4.

## UNECE Response

- **Press Release on 12 December 2013**
- **UNECE Executive Secretary meeting with Chair of Preparatory Committee Ambassador Conejos in February**
- **UNECE Executive Secretary meeting with WTO DG Azevedo – last week**
- **TFIG Executive Workshop at WTO in February 2014**
- **Meetings with Annex D Organizations**
- **GFP Meeting on 30 June 2014**
- **Joint UN RC Approach**





**UNECE**

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Press Release

Geneva, 12 December 2013

### **Following the Bali Agreement on Trade Facilitation, UNECE offers implementation solutions**

Congratulating the World Trade Organization on the Trade Facilitation Agreement concluded as part of the “Bali Package”, UNECE Executive Secretary Sven Alkalaj said today that the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe would provide its full support to countries to help them apply the agreed measures.

“From now on, we must focus on implementation,” he said. “UNECE will place all its trade facilitation tools at the disposal of its member States. One very valuable tool we can offer is our [Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide](#), which we launched at the WTO earlier this year”.

UNECE developed this comprehensive Guide in collaboration with other key international organizations in trade facilitation such as the World Customs Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). A web-based interactive tool, it also includes a direct [linkage](#) between the WTO trade facilitation measures in the Agreement and the support that international organizations can offer. In other words, it's a one-stop shop where policymakers and implementers can find the most essential trade facilitation information.

Alkalaj said that the large number of recommendations and standards drawn up by the UNECE's Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business ([UN/CEFACT](#)) will play a significant role in global trade facilitation.

UNECE, jointly with UNESCAP, is already supporting policymakers and experts in designing integrated national and regional strategies for facilitating trade. Through the Network of Experts for Paperless Trade ([UNNExT](#)), UNECE provides a unique platform where policymakers from Europe, Central Asia and Asia-Pacific exchange expertise and gain competence in planning and applying advanced trade facilitation measures. During 2014 and 2015, the five regional commissions of the United Nations will provide UNNExT guides and training to policymakers and traders worldwide.

# Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

# TRADE FACILITATION IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

[Home](#)[Domains](#)[Suggested Itineraries](#)[Instruments](#)[Organizations](#)[Contact](#)

Welcome to the  
**Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide**



Domains



Itineraries



Instruments



Organizations



Trade Facilitation  
Implementation Guide



TFIG Website: [tfig.unece.org](http://tfig.unece.org)



## Workshops Dates and Venues in 2013

- 
**Europe – Turin Italy, 12 to 14 Feb**
- 
**East Africa – Kigali Rwanda, 1 to 3 May**
- 
**Middle East – Aqaba Jordan, 13 to 15 May**
- 
**Central Asia – Bishkek Kyrgyzstan, 10 to 13 June**
- 
**Latin America – Santiago Chile, 23 to 25 Sept**
- 
**West Africa – Dakar Senegal, October (tbc)**
- 
**Commonwealth Secretariat at the WTO – October**
- 
**South East Asia – Bangkok Thailand, 20 to 23 Nov**
- 
**WTO Member States – February 2014**



## National Trade Facilitation Strategy and Roadmap

October 2012

*"Reducing time to export by 50%  
and costs by 20% by the end of  
2015, thus leading to at least 10%  
increase in exports' value, 1.7%  
increase of the GDP and 80,000  
new jobs"*



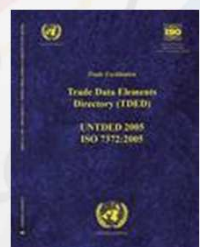
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
Κυβέρνηση

# UNECE's Work for SWs

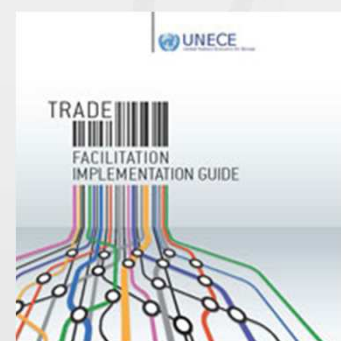
Policy  
Rec.s



Standards

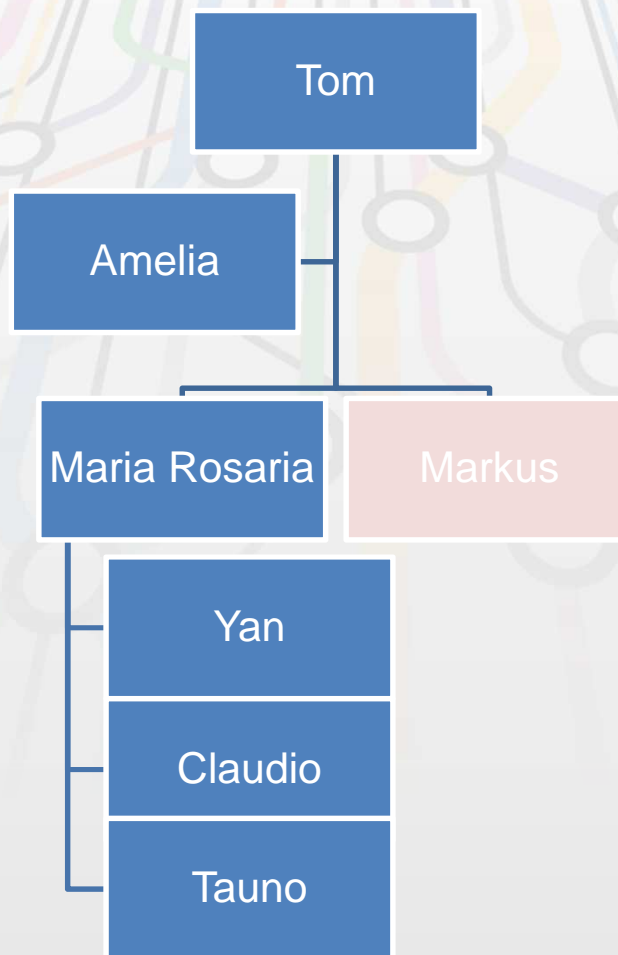


Guidelines,  
Briefs, Case  
Studies



Capacity Building & Technical assistance

## GTS Section Resources – 2014



## 10.3 Use of International Standards

**3.1. Members are encouraged to use relevant international standards or parts thereof as a basis for their importation, exportation or transit formalities and procedures except as otherwise provided for in this Agreement.**

**3.2. Members are encouraged to take part, within the limits of their resources, in the preparation and periodic review of relevant international standards by appropriate international organizations.**



## 10.3 Use of International Standards

**3.3. The Committee shall develop procedures for the sharing by Members of relevant information, and best practices, on the implementation of international standards, as appropriate. The Committee may also invite relevant international organizations to discuss their work on international standards. As appropriate, the Committee may identify specific standards that are of particular value to Members.**