Consultation on a Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanisms (TTFMM)

Kiev, 24 Oct. 2018

This meeting, to be held on 24 October 2018, venue (t.b.c.): Reitarska St, 19Б, Kyiv, Ukraine, will focus on consultations with experts on the possibility to establish a national trade and transport facilitation monitoring and measuring mechanism (UNCEFACT Recommendation 42) in Ukraine,. Even if there exist international indicators of achievement in trade facilitation, they are not enough, so UNECE and UNCEFACT Recommendation 42 suggest going further – using Time Release Studies, Business Process Analyses, and possibly other measures.

Agenda for the meeting:

1. Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanisms (TTFMM) – measuring progress in implementing trade facilitation measures;
   1. UNCEFACT Recommendation 42;
   2. Institutional support (e.g. from the NTFC)
   3. link to national trade facilitation strategic planning.
2. Implementation of the WTO TFA measures:
   1. Measures notified as A, but not implemented as of 22 Feb.2017: status of implementation (reference: TFA readiness assessment study, information from the government agencies, the business community and experts);
   2. Measures notified as B, status of implementation (some are implemented);
   3. Measures notified as C: status of implementation
3. Indicators developed by international organizations (the World Bank’s Doing Business: Trading across Borders report; LPI, and the OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators).
4. Time Release Studies – art. 7.6 of the TFA. Specialists from Ukraine may share the experience of the actual TRS in Odessa, based on the WCO TRS methodology. Explore possibilities for doing these studies on a regular basis.
5. Business Process Analysis, with the need to identify and focus on strategically important product, e.g. export of corn and wheat. Presenting the UNNExT guide on BPA and the project approach to BPA.
6. Other measuring methodologies: Time-Cost-Distance methodology for identifying bottlenecks in transport, global UN survey of paperless trade, etc.
7. Organizational and budgeting issues. Project-focused approach (“*if you cannot measure it, you cannot improve it”*).

Recommendation 42 and the TTFMM methodology point out that the international indexes and benchmarks are not sufficient to measure the actual release times, cost and complexity (e.g. repetitions of document and data requirements), so the TTFMM focuses on items 4 and 5 above: TRS and BPA carried out on regular basis to measure progress. The next important discussion can be on item 7 – how to organize and get a budget for projects on TTFMM, TRS and BPA.