

Economic Commission for Europe

*Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards  
Third session, 12-13 April 2017*

*Albanian Statement*

*on High Level Segment: Removing regulatory and procedural barriers  
to trade in the ECE region*

*13 April 2017*

Mr. President,

It is my pleasure to represent Albanian Government in the High Level Segment of the 3rd session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.

We thank the Secretariat for the study made on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade as well as the Moldova delegation for excellent presentation on the findings and recommendations.

By this occasion, we would like to present to the HLS the Albanian experience in the area of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade as follows:

The Albanian National Coordinating Committee on the trading and facilitating policy was established in May 2016. This Committee is part of the Berlin process with its priority to facilitate trading, and also in line with the Protocol 5 of the CEFTA implementation process. In this regard, we may add also the commitment of Vienna Summit, emphasising the relevance of trade facilitation for the entire region to make further steps of integration in Regional and European level.

We would like to inform the session that this Committee is a unique body dedicated to only trade, and its regulatory and procedural barriers. It is headed by the Albanian Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship composed by 12 members coming from other related institutions as well as by 6 members from Business Community.

The Committee functions are:

- a. To propose relevant measures on trade facilitation,
- b. To coordinate trade policy making process at national level,
- c. To coordinate and consult the trade policy with Business Community
- d. To monitor trade policy in the country.

There are four Committee meetings, whose outcomes are to be reported to the Prime Minister Office. Depending on specific issues, the Committee decides for setting up subordinated bodies or working groups. There is also the Action Plan 2017-2018, whose measures are based on trade barriers based on different reports in particular those of UNECE. Furthermore, the working group on SPS and technical barrier to trade is set up in the country.

In frame of CEFTA, the Protocol 5 seeks to promote synergy among its members` countries in order to implement trade facilitation objectives as a response to Business Community requests on the elimination of useless trade barriers. This Protocol is based on the TFA provisions. In some case, it embodies the additional engagements, thus it remains an additional guarantee for Albanian exporters in particular on: inspection simplification, reduction export-import formalities, exchange of electronic data, reciprocal acknowledgment of laboratory tests and those of the program of the Agreed Economic Operators, as well as effective risk implementation.

Another dimension of the Protocol is related to its effects to all other agencies exercising border activities. This is its additional value which is based on WTO trade facilitation rules and principles and TFA provisions.

In the area of its implementation, up to now Albania has undertaken the following measures as commitments in the frame of Paris Summit:

- National Committee on trade facilitation is set up in May 2016;
- Local Custom Clearance Decision is issued in April 2016;
- Document Approval on Risk Management Policy issues in May 2016.
- Cooperation Agreement between border acting Agencies is done in August 2016.

The latter is broadly discussed among relevant institutions AKSHI-n and seeks be as guarantee for all institutions participating in Additional Protocol 5 in particular AKU in the National electronic system of services, which is part of current project headed by AKSHI in this regard.

In conclusion, expressing its commitments for further improvements on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, Albanian wishes the Moldova delegation every success in implementation of the recommendations made during this session.

Thank you!