

THE WORK PLAN

OF THE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES (OTS) FOR 2025

		Sub-undertaking	Comment	Responsible body
1.	Functioning of the Trade Facilitation Committee		In line with the provisions of the Trade Facilitation Strategy Paper that was adopted by the decision of the Council of Heads of State at the 9 th Summit of the OTS of 11 November 2022, the Trade Facilitation Committee of the OTS shall meet regularly, at least once a year in November at the OTS Secretariat or online under exceptional circumstances.	Trade Facilitation Committee members and OTS Secretariat
			Holding online meetings of the Trade Facilitation Committee at least once in 3 months to monitor and evaluate the implementation of its Work Plan	Trade Facilitation Committee members and OTS Secretariat
			According to the Trade Facilitation Strategy Paper each Member shall also establish and/or maintain a national committee on trade facilitation or designate an existing mechanism to facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of this Strategy Paper.	Trade Facilitation Committee members
			the Trade Facilitation Strategy Paper stipulates that each Member State shall appoint at least one entity (from businesses, manufacturers, and industry associations, <i>inter alia</i>) to attend the Trade Facilitation Committee of the OTS meetings to inform and advise the Committee on international trade and customs matters from the perspective of the private sector. The private sector representatives attending the Trade Facilitation Committee of the OTS meetings carry observer status in such meetings and do not participate in the decision-making process.	Trade Facilitation Committee members

2.	Harmonization of Trade Procedures	Mutual Recognition of Authorized Economic Operators (AEO)	Conducting the discussions on a possibility to form working groups aimed at mutually sharing information regarding the regulations set by the authorized economic operator programs of the member states, including the criteria required and benefits provided by the certificate.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
		Simplification of trade-related formalities and documentation requirements	View trade-related formalities and documentation requirements with a view to reduce their incidence and simplify them. Turkish side proposed to share their experience on this matter and setting-up a sub-working group on this issue.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
		Establishment of a Trade Facilitation Helpdesk	Exchange views on creation of a centralized Trade Facilitation Helpdesk , serving as a focal point for traders to obtain information and assistance on trade procedures, documentation requirements, and customs processes across member states could be created. This initiative would provide a reliable source of guidance and support, reducing uncertainties and promoting compliance.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
		Establishment of national enquiry points on customs matters	Establishing national enquiry points to respond to enquiries from other OTS Member States about customs and other trade related procedures Developing mechanisms for the transmission of enquiries, protection of their confidentiality and prohibition of third parties' access to information exchanged.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states

3.	Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building	Cooperation with international and regional organizations	<p>Further strengthening of cooperation with international organizations, regional economic entities, as well as third countries with an emphasis on obtaining practical assistance in simplifying trade procedures and adopting positive experience in administering foreign trade processes.</p> <p>Ongoing collaboration of the OTS with international organizations, such as United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and World Customs Organization (WCO) could be benefitted to facilitate capacity building programs and technical assistance. The Secretariat could develop ties with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). This collaboration would ensure access to global expertise, resources, and best practices in trade facilitation.</p>	The OTS Secretariat, relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
		Capacity Building for Customs Officials	<p>TFC could work for organizing capacity building programs for customs officials, focusing on training and knowledge sharing in specific areas related to trade facilitation, customs procedures, risk management, and the use of modern technologies. This would enhance the capabilities of customs administrations in implementing standardized processes.</p> <p>The Turkish side proposed to share experience on the issues of transparency in foreign trade, simplified customs procedures and Authorized Economic Operators, digital customs applications and transit procedures within the context of TIR Convention through trainings / seminars / on-site visits / panels.</p> <p>In this regard, to discuss the possibility of adaptation of calendar of events on capacity building measures for customs officials.</p>	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
		Exchange Programs for trade officials	<p>Discussion of possible exchange programs that enable trade officials from member states to visit and learn from trade facilitation practices in other countries could be organized. These programs would facilitate the exchange of ideas, experiences, and expertise, enabling participants to bring back valuable insights and implement best practices in their respective countries.</p>	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states

		Capacity building for trade, customs and logistics professionals	Study on the organization of capacity building programs targeting trade, customs and logistics professionals in member countries could be conducted. These programs would focus on enhancing skills and knowledge in areas such as supply chain management, logistics operations, and trade facilitation, ultimately improving the overall efficiency and competitiveness of cross-border trade.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
4.	Digitalization of Trade Processes	Sharing experience on Digital Single Window System	<p>Conducting the discussions on possibility to of adoption and implementation of Single Window Systems (SWS) among member states.</p> <p>SWS may streamline trade-related procedures by allowing traders to submit all necessary documentation through a single electronic platform. This reduces paperwork, enhances transparency, and improves coordination between relevant agencies. Sharing experiences about the SWS.</p>	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
		Application of mirror statistics	Implementation of exchange of experience in the field of application of the mirror statistics	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
		Electronic Document Exchange	To study the possibility of application of electronic document exchange mechanisms, such as electronic certificates of origin, electronic bills of lading phytosanitary (IPPC ePhyto Solution) and veterinary certificates. These initiatives would replace traditional paper-based documentation with secure and standardized electronic formats, reducing administrative burdens, and expediting document processing.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states

		<p>Online Trade Facilitation Portals</p>	<p>Exchange of information on the existing online trade facilitation portals in member states and studying the possibility of establishing a joint portal. The portal intends to provide traders with a user-friendly interface to access information, submit applications, and track the status of trade transactions. The portal would offer comprehensive guidance on trade procedures, regulations, and documentation requirements, fostering transparency and facilitating self-service options for traders.</p>	<p>Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states</p>
		<p>Exchange of information on Digital Signature</p>	<p>Exchange of information on digital signature mechanism for ensuring the integrity and authenticity of electronic trade documents and transactions. This would enhance security, reduce fraud, and provide legal certainty in the digital trade environment.</p>	<p>Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states</p>
		<p>Digitalization of transport documents</p>	<p>Acceleration of works in the field of digitalization of other transport documents along with the "Bill of lading" document (e.g. eCMR, eSMGS and FAL documents.)</p>	<p>Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states</p>
		<p>Digital transformation of the Middle Corridor</p>	<p>Implementation of digital transformation of all operational links and channels along the Trans-Caspian International East-West Middle Corridor (Middle Corridor) in order to develop "soft" infrastructure, using advanced paperless trade technologies and carrying out institutional transformations, including the development and implementation of a data exchange system between the ports of the Middle Corridor using the best international practices and standards on a "single window"</p> <p>Exploring the possibility of cooperation and connectivity options with regard to development and management of the "Middle Corridor Customs Transit Portal"</p>	<p>Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states</p>

5.	Trade Facilitation Monitoring and Evaluation	Establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism and Key Performance Indicators	<p>A dedicated monitoring and evaluation mechanism for trade facilitation could be created. This mechanism would define the framework, methodologies, and indicators for assessing the implementation and impact of trade facilitation measures across member states.</p> <p>To this end, to develop a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for trade facilitation. These KPIs would capture relevant data and provide quantitative benchmarks to measure progress, efficiency, and effectiveness in areas such as customs clearance time, documentation requirements, border crossing efficiency, and trade costs.</p>	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
6.	Stakeholder Engagement and Public-Private Partnerships	Public-Private Dialogues	The Secretariat in cooperation with Turkic Chambers of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) might organize public-private dialogues that bring together government officials, industry representatives, and civil society organizations to discuss trade facilitation challenges, share perspectives, and explore collaborative solutions. These dialogues would provide a platform for open and constructive discussions, allowing stakeholders to contribute their insights and expertise.	OTS Secretariat, Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states
		Partnership Development	Development of partnerships between government, private sector entities, and civil society organizations to address specific trade facilitation challenges could be studied. These partnerships could focus on areas such as capacity building, technology adoption, infrastructure development, and policy advocacy. By leveraging the strengths and resources of different stakeholders, partnerships can drive meaningful progress in trade facilitation.	Relevant digital, customs, transport, trade, and other government entities of the member states