Trade Facilitation and Turkey

Vision
- e-Government and Dematerialization of Public Services
- Customs Law No 4458 Implementing Regulation on Customs Law

Legal Background
- Improvement of ICT Structure of Government Agencies «Digital Turkey»
- Utilization of Information Technology

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION
COVID-19 Pandemic

First Case
11 March 2020

DISRUPTION

CONTAINMENT

RECOVERY

COVID-19 ACTION PLAN
Trade Facilitation Agreement and ICT

In General

Trade Facilitation Agreement does not include any specific provision regarding use of information and communication technologies apart from certain exceptions.

- Article 1.4 Information Available Through Internet
- Article 7.2 Electronic Payments
- Article 10.1 Formalities and Documentation Requirements

«...With a view to ... simplifying import, export and transit documentation requirements and taking into account ... availability of techniques and technology ... each Member shall review such formalities and documentation requirements.»

- Article 10.2 Acceptance of Copies

«Each Member shall, where appropriate, endeavour to accept paper or electronic copies of supporting documents required for import, export and transit formalities.»
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In General

- **Article 10.4 Single Window**

  «Members shall, to the extent possible and practicable, use information technology to support the single window.»

All in all, use of ICT is not mandatory within trade facilitation measures but allow:

- **Reduction of time and costs of documentary requirements,**

- **Simplification of business processes in relation with customs administrations and OGAs,**

- **Enhanced integrity and less fraud cases allowing effective trade facilitation measures for legitimate trade.**
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Article 3

- In line with TFA Article 3 and Customs Law No 4458 Article 9, upon application of traders with relation to specific export and import, Turkish Customs can issue an advance ruling on tariff or rules of origin.

A recent advance ruling issued on magnet units to be used in valves, HS 8481

- Application for advance rulings on tariff classification must be made through Advance Rulings Portal (https://uygulama.gtb.gov.tr/BTBBasvuru/AnaSayfa)

- Portal has an advance search mechanism which allows stakeholders and other related parties to search advance rulings that are recently issued, in force and revoked.

- Currently, rules of origin module for Advance Ruling Portal is still in development.
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Article 5 – Test Procedures

- For the purpose of consolidating all laboratory analysis reports within the context of customs transactions, Turkish Customs had established «Laboratory Analysis and Reporting Program» called LARA in 2016.

- LARA is integrated within BILGE system and allows officers to forward goods in question to one of the seven laboratories established within the mandate of customs administration.

- On the other hand, traders can follow the current status of their goods in laboratory analysis within electronic systems.

- Currently, three other government agencies’ laboratories (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of Labour and Social Security) integrated to system and accepted within customs transactions for tariff determination.
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Article 7

- For all customs clearance procedures, Computerized Customs Operations System (BILGE) is used. System has different modules (export, import, inwards processing, etc.) and integrations (Support Management System, Risk Based Controls System in Foreign Trade, etc.) which allows traders a packed program for customs transactions.

- Majority of measures contained within sub-Articles of Article 7 and 10 of TFA are concluded with the help of BILGE Program.
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Article 10.1 – Documentation Requirements

Digital Customs in Export

- 171 Documents are transferred to electronic environment
- Authenticity Via QR CODE
- Notification of Other Countries
- Post-Clearance Check is Possible

1. Sending electronic documents added to declaration from office
2. Electronic messaging between officers and declarants
3. Sharing of export declaration information with banks and other institutions in electronic environment
4. Faster Export
5. Reduced Costs
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Article 10.4 Single Window

**BENEFITS**

- Traceability and efficiency
- Better allocation of time and resources
- Standardization of trade administration documents

**CURRENT STATE**

- 2012/6 Decree on Single Window System in Customs Services
- E-Registration and E-Document phases
- 18 Institutions and 143 Documents
Trade Facilitation Agreement

Article 10.4 Single Window

Provision of Ship Notification to A Singular Point

Information Collected from 5 Government Agencies

Observation of results of test and operations of Other Government Agencies

1. Simplification of Notification procedures regarding ships

2. Database formed by information from different OGAs

3. Less Paper-based Transactions

4. Reduced Delivery Times

5. Produce accurate stats on port operations
Going Forward

Leveraging Emerging Technologies

Cross-Border Recognition

Implementing International Standards

7.5 Risk Management
Use of AI in Risk Assessment

Extension of data exchange mechanisms and mutual recognition of e-documents

Integration of international standards and electronic documents, i.e. E-CITES
Thank you for your attention.

Questions?

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