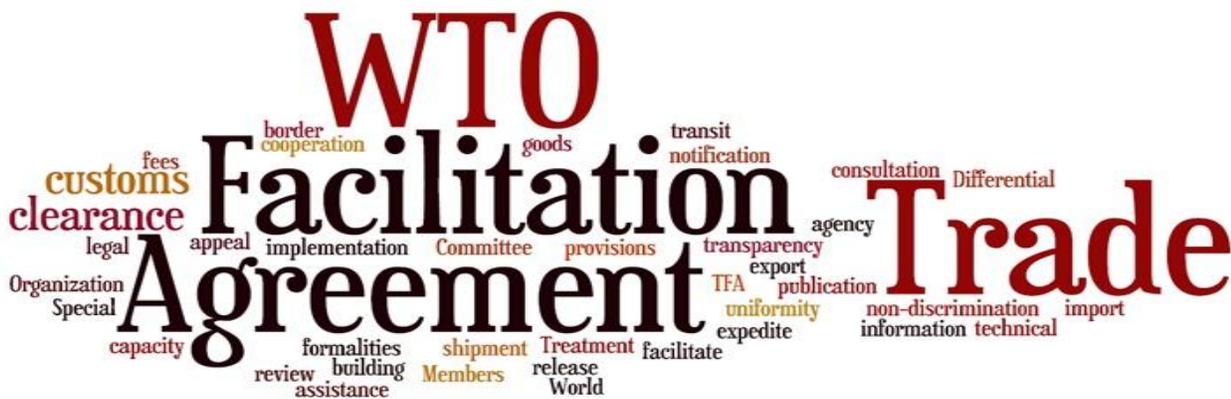


## **The Trade Facilitation Agreement– National Trade Facilitation Committee**

The Trade Facilitation Agreement is the first multilateral agreement of the World Trade Organization adopted after the Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations. In addition to the measures on simplification, harmonization and standardization of procedures at the border, the Agreement also stipulates the obligation to establish a body that will facilitate coordination at the national level and monitor its implementation – **the National Trade Facilitation Committee**.

The aim of having such a national mechanism is to ensure consultations with public and private players and their involvement in preparation and implementation of reforms that will facilitate trade at the national level.



**Taking into account the before mentioned, the National Trade Facilitation Committee was established in Montenegro in May 2015 by the decision of the Minister of Finance and pursuant to the Conclusions of the Government of Montenegro.** The Committee was established as the permanent multiagency platform, comprising of the representatives from relevant state authorities and private sector, with the task to ensure coordination and cooperation between the mentioned players, all with the aim of full and efficient implementation of the Agreement. The Committee functions under the principle of co-chairing between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy.

Since its establishment, the Committee has been committed to laying down the foundations and structure that would ensure its full functionality, by identifying and including all relevant entities in the work of this Committee, determination of duties and scope of work, adoption of clear procedures for its operations, establishing of administrative team, etc. Such practice has proved to be very successful, not only in the region, but wider, therefore the World Bank presented the Montenegrin Committee as an example of good practice. Moreover, focus of the Committee in the previous period has been on identification of the areas where the custom authorities require technical assistance for full implementation of the Agreement.

Future activities of the Committee will be focused on an overarching, multiannual program for implementation of reforms on trade facilitation, identification of potential international donors with the aim of ensuring the required technical assistance, coordination of and monitoring the ongoing projects, as well as many other activities aimed at promotion and strengthening the cooperation between public and private sector.