

March 22, 2021

International Trade and Customs Practice Group Newsletter



National Committee for Trade Facilitation – Complementary Note

On January 22, 2021, the Ministry of the Economy (hereinafter “ME”) published in the Federal Official Gazette the “Agreement creating, on a permanent basis, the National Committee for Trade Facilitation” (hereinafter the “Agreement”).

Through the Agreement, the ME established on a permanent basis the National Trade Facilitation Committee, which will have among its purposes the facilitation of coordination among governmental offices and entities for the design, execution and evaluation of programs and actions in trade facilitation matters, and whose functions include the following:

- I. To act as a coordination entity for the different Federal Public Administration agencies that have jurisdiction over and that intervene in the different aspects related to the implementation and application of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation.
- II. To assist the ME and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to the jurisdiction of their members, in the design of strategies, programs and actions focused on the simplification and automatization of processes in the foreign trade sector, as well as to coordinate their execution, with an approach that promotes their coordination.

- III. To propose issues related to matters concerning the implementation and application of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, as well as to approve issues related to the implementation and application of such Agreement.

It should be noted that in the second transitory article of the Agreement, it was established that said Committee should be installed within 35 business days following the entry into force of the Agreement.

Therefore, on March 16 of this year, the ME issued Official Communication No. 011 through which it announced that on the same date the National Trade Facilitation Committee was formally installed.

It is worth mentioning that according to the aforementioned communication, the installation session of the Committee was chaired by Luz María de la Mora, Undersecretary of Foreign Trade, on behalf of Tatiana Clouthier, head of the ME, with the participation of officials from several Ministries, the Federal Economic Competition Commission, the National Commission for Regulatory Improvement, and the Bank of Mexico.

Also, it should be noted that the precedent for the creation of this Committee is found in the “Protocol of

Amendment to the Marrakech Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization”, adopted on November 27, 2014, by which Annex 1 A was incorporated into this Protocol to include the “Agreement on Trade Facilitation” (said agreement was approved by the Mexican Senate according to the Decree published in the Official Federal Gazette on June 1, 2016).

We are at your disposal for any additional question you may have or clarification you may require in connection with the aforementioned.

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