

WTO- Trade Facilitation Committee 2/3.5.2018

statement by Germany  
to point 2 III “the sharing of experiences and information on ongoing assistance and support for capacity building and implementation programs, including challenges and successes”

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Germany is funding TA projects on trade facilitation amounting to a total of 90 million Euro.

We are convinced that private sector contributions are crucial for the success of the TFA. This is why Germany is one of the founding partners of the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation. Together with Australia, Canada, UK, USA as well as international enterprises, we have joined forces in a public-private partnership to support and accelerate the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. German development cooperation is currently implementing projects of the Global Alliance for Trade facilitation in Ghana, Kenia, Morocco and Argentina.

In addition, we have established a German Alliance for Trade Facilitation, complementing our efforts on the international level, to further leverage resources from German business for the implementation of the agreement in partner countries. The German Alliance combines the strengths and resources of companies, business associations, and several ministries.

Projects of the German Alliance focus on high-impact areas to achieve tangible benefits in a relatively short timeframe. Currently, the Alliance implements trade facilitation reform projects in Argentina, Serbia, and Montenegro, and prepares projects in South Africa and Indonesia.

To illustrate how the Alliance approach works, let me give you an example from Montenegro. One of the category C measures Montenegro has notified to the WTO is article 7.1 “pre-arrival processing”. The Alliance engaged with express operators to develop a systematic solution for implementation of pre-arrival processing for express consignments together with local stakeholders in the customs offices and with the ministries of finance and trade. This entailed the development of an IT system, reviewing and adapting existing regulations as well as training of individual capacities of customs officers for the new procedure.

As a result, the number of express shipments released within 1 hour of their arrival has doubled from initially 25% to now over 50%. This is the result after the implementation of the pre-arrival procedure within the project phase of 18 months.

Germany is therefore convinced that new partnerships in cooperation with the private sector are one of the most promising tools to make sustainable trade facilitation reforms happen and to successfully implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement.