



*Organization of a Workshop "Customs 2020" on the implementation of
the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)*

General presentation

In partnership with the European Commission and the Foundation for Studies and Research on International Development (FERDI), the French Customs Directorate will organize from 23rd to 25th November, in Clermont-Ferrand (Auvergne region, FR), an international seminar on the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

Actually, articles 1 to 12 of the TFA directly involve the customs administrations regarding the regulation of international trade, either to inform or consult companies, to secure or facilitate their clearance operations, or to streamline the controls at the border, alone or in collaboration with other organizations.

The TFA contains hundreds of provisions, some of which are binding while others are only recommendations. Then, the customs administrations must or may implement these measures at an appropriate time, depending on their level of development and modernization.

The European Commission has already ratified the TFA on behalf of Member States. European customs will then have to comply with the TFA when the agreement will enter into force, expected for the beginning of 2017. However, for Member States, these provisions are not only an objective to achieve but also a goal to overpass as part of the implementation of the new Customs Code of the Union (UCC).

Therefore, the seminar in Clermont-Ferrand will bring together around this topic, in the premises of the Foundation for Studies and Research on International Development, the customs representatives of the 28 Member States of the EU in order to discuss the state of preparation of the customs administrations, their point of view on the implementation of the TFA and the feedback of the private sector.

Thus, the first day of the meeting (November, 23rd) will allow businesses to share their own perception of trade facilitation. It will be a wonderful occasion to debate, during panel discussions, with all EU customs administrations, more specifically on the issue of the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) and on the experiences of Single Window in the light of the TFA.

Partner organizations will complete these presentations with their works in the field of modernization of customs administrations, with a focus on the economic development through trade facilitation.