



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Executive Secretary

*Under-Secretary-General*

Ref: ECE / TRADE / 2014 / 223

18 September 2014

Excellency,

I note with pleasure the continuous political support for trade facilitation in Ukraine, as witnessed by the successful implementation of UNECE's projects in Ukraine, including the latest of our two joint events on the Single Window and on Trade Facilitation. The Government of Ukraine continues to develop instruments for trade facilitation, in compliance with the UNECE recommendations and standards. We have a very high appreciation for this work given the current, complicated political and economic situation.

I would like to stress UNECE's willingness to maintain, within its mandate and capacity, its fruitful cooperation with Ukraine, especially with your Ministry and particularly in the following two areas.

First, UNECE would be willing to assist Ukraine in assessing its readiness to implement the measures in the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, using an established United Nations methodology. We are ready to undertake the necessary research and prepare a report assessing Ukraine's readiness to implement the Agreement's measures. Further, we could work with your Ministry to organize a meeting of all stakeholder agencies (e.g. in mid-December 2014) to evaluate this report. The results could be used by Ukraine to notify the WTO on the list of measures under the agreement that it has already implemented (Category A), and also on the measures that Ukraine can implement alone, but needs more time (Category B); and measures that would need more time and external assistance (Category C).

His Excellency  
Mr. Valeriy Pyatnitskiy  
Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Trade  
of the Republic of Ukraine  
Kiev



Secondly, in addition to this, UNECE is willing to assist Ukraine in the finalization of its national trade facilitation strategy and a road map for implementation. Ukraine first has to define its needs, finalize a trade facilitation strategy and then start implementing its strategy which can then serve as the basis for an overarching trade facilitation project and for concrete projects on implementing trade facilitation measures and instruments. UNECE has already provided assistance for the development of a draft Strategy that has been prepared in collaboration with the Interagency Working Group on trade facilitation and the Single Window in Ukraine. It focuses on the current indicators of foreign trade efficiency and how they should be improved in the coming years. If Ukraine decides that it wants to go ahead with this project, then the UNECE would welcome cooperating with your Ministry as the main governmental partner, collaborating with a team of experts from various stakeholder agencies, notably on defining the current indicators of efficiency, the objectives for improvement, and an action plan with a timetable for the implementation of the Strategy.

For further information please contact Mr. Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE Economic Cooperation, Trade, and Land Management Division: tel.: +41 22 917 1134, e-mail: [mario.apostolov@unece.org](mailto:mario.apostolov@unece.org)

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CFB', is positioned above the name of the signatory.

Christian Friis Bach