

PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



The Observatory: Monitoring the implementation of OIE standards



PERSPECTIVES

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AROUND THE WORLD

The World Trade Organization (WTO) [Trade Facilitation Agreement Database \(TFAD\)](#) is an online platform that allows users to track and analyse the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

The TFA is the first WTO Agreement in which developing and least-developed country Members can set their own implementation schedules, and progress in implementing the Agreement is explicitly linked to acquiring the necessary technical assistance and support to build capacity.

The [TFAD's interactive implementation dashboard](#) makes it easier to analyse this process by providing various tools to examine the status of WTO Members' implementation commitments. Collectively, these commitments provide a roadmap of when we can expect full implementation of the TFA by the entire Membership.

The TFAD also provides in-depth information on the series of transparency notifications mandated by the TFA, such as the requirement to publish online information on import and export procedures or to provide Contact Points to respond to enquiries. This information is available on each [Member profile](#), as well as on [a dedicated page for governments and traders](#) to consult. In addition, the Member profiles provide a platform for in-depth examinations of individual progress on implementation.

The database also allows users to access all [notifications and communications](#) submitted by Members. Moreover, it updates the activities of the WTO [Trade Facilitation Committee](#) and provides access to related information.

Background information

Traders from both developing and least-developed countries have long pointed to the vast amount of 'red tape' that exists when moving goods across borders and which poses a particular burden on small and medium-sized enterprises. To address this, WTO Members negotiated a landmark TFA, which is designed to deliver practical measures to strengthen global trade and economic growth. The TFA – which [came into force on 22 February 2017](#) – contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. It also sets out measures for effective cooperation between Customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and Customs compliance issues. It further contains provisions for technical assistance and capacity building in this area.

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AROUND THE WORLD

▶ NETWORK INITIATIVES

The Trade Facilitation Agreement Database

KEYWORDS

#Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), #capacity building, #OIE Observatory, #safe trade, #transparency, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), #World Trade Organization (WTO).

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