**EU STATEMENTS**

**DEDICATED SESSION ON AID**

**2-3 MAY 2018**

**The EU would like to support the US statement: categorisation is key and, in particular, well detailed needs for assistance must be notified. This is the first step for donors to be able to intervene. Regarding developing countries, we are under have the impression that the situation goes rather well even if donors have not yet been coordinated/approached by beneficiary countries in many instances. Regarding LDCs, many have notified their needs but still a number are probably in the process but given that the deadline for notification is next year, we must acknowledge that we may not know enough at this stage and would encourage LDC countries to take the floor today.**

**Overview of EU approach to the provision of assistance: presentation by the EUropean union**

**DEVCO will present ongoing (ECOWAS, ASEAN) and future programmes (ASEAN, Mozambique, Belize-tbc-) and individual cases of EU cooperation with third countries will be presented such as with Georgia.**

Ongoing projects:

* Trade Facilitation Programme in **West Africa**, with ECOWAS (€20 M, started in 2017)
* **ASEAN:** Regional ARISE Plus component (€40 M out of €85 to address trade facilitation, food safety and pharmaceuticals standards, customs, land transit, IPR, civil aviation) which started implementation end 2017/early 2018.

Projects under formulation/being decided:

* EU-**SADC** Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP) (€ 15 M)
* Supporting Trade and Development in **Mozambique** (€12 M)
* **ASEAN (national components and Transit)**:
  + National ARISE Plus component: Remaining €45 M of €85 M as TRTA programmes (Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia were adopted last year and will start this year, Myanmar and Laos are being prepared for adoption this summer and Thailand and Malaysia are planned to be prepared for next year).
  + The Asean Customs Transit System (ACTS) pilot (between Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia) will go live (tentatively in March 2019) under the successor ARISE Plus programme (which just started end last year/early this year), and will then be rolled out to Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar. This builds on the ACTS development supported by the previous ARISE with EUR 7.5 mio.

**Georgia:**

**The EU would like to complement what Georgia just indicated. In fact, over the period 2014-2020, the EU Support to EU-Georgia in the framework of the DCFTA and support to SMEs” will amount to about EUR 44,5 million that include some elements on Trade Facilitation that are in support to Georgia's commitments C notified to the WTO.**

**The overall assistance provided to the Customs Administration covering the programming years 2013-2017, amounted to 16 million EUR. Most of the projects are already completed and a few are still under implementation. Under what we call "IPA 2", there are further projects for about 4 million EUR programmed for the Customs Administration as a beneficiary, but procurement for these projects is expected to take place next year.**

**On Freedom of transit, we are involved via a twinning programme with Georgia. We are providing support in order to help Georgia accede to the transit Area Convention and the New Computerized Transit System. Twinning programmes are ongoing in these areas. Another domain where we cooperate is the Authorised Economic Operators programme. Our cooperation consists in sharing of experiences thanks to experts' visit on subjects such as risk management, assistance in the revision and drafting of a new customs code. Assistance can also take place via sector budget support, or high level technical assistance and advice by competent Member States' institutions, companies and international organisations. In addition, there is grant support to relevant civil society organisations and companies interested in developing and trading their products and services.**

Regarding assistance, the EU has ongoing programmes that could be used – supporting Georgia accession to the transit Area convention and New Computarised Transit Systems. The EU has ongoing twining programmes in these two areas. Worth recalling that Preparation and launching of an appropriate IT system linking the current Georgian customs clearance system with the EU/EFTA New Computerised Transit System is an essential element for Georgia to be invited to the Convention on a Common transit. A similar exercise is currently in preparation by the EU DEL in Chisinau.

Approximating Georgia's Authorised Economic Operator system to that of the EU is in the Medium-term priorities of the 2017-2020 EU-Georgia Association Agenda adopted in November 2017. This objective is being pursued through different tools and in different frameworks. As for the second commitment C, Article 11.9 Freedom of Transit, this is also largely covered by a Twinning.

There are number of trade facilitation assistance projects have been completed and are currently running for Georgia (bilaterally and within the Eastern Partnership), e.g.:

- workshops, study visits, seminars that had led GE to became a party to the Paneuro Convention on preferential rules of origin

- workshops, seminars, twinning project to prepare GE to join the Common Transit Convention and the Convention on trade facilitation in trade (SAD)

- experts' assistance in drafting a new customs code

- study visits on risk management

- a series of TAXUD trade facilitation workshops for line customs managers (2014-2018)

**Viet Nam and United States cooperation on Trade Facilitation: contribution BY Viet Nam and the United States**

**The EU would like to seize the opportunity of this presentation to supply information to the Members on its cooperation with Vietnam on trade facilitation related activities. In the framework of MUTRAP, an assistance programme of 16 million euros in total that ended last year, it is worth mentioning the setting up and running of the TBT portal that meets important transparency requirements for operators, activities to support trade facilitation between Vietnam,  Laos and Cambodia, activities to support the improvement of the certificates of origin and a study on self-certification, as well as support to the national action plan on the development of logistics services among many other activities. Regarding the future possibilities, the so called "ARISE PLUS" programme that will start in 2019 can cover some TF aspects if need be.**

In the framework of MUTRAP (trade related technical assistance programme in Vietnam), the following activities related partly to trade facilitation:

1. activities on improving e-commerce legislation (including activities to introduce on line dispute settlement, which is considered trade facilitation)

2. activity on impact of export control (even if only partially tf)

3. activity on upgrading the SPS system

4. set up and run the TBT portal and TBT information network

5. Our roadmap is focused on chapters of customs and TF, TBT and SPS

6. Activity to support the triangular agreement (Laos, Cambodia) on trade facilitation

7. Support the improvement of certificate of origin and study on self-certification

8. support the National Action Plan (NAP) of Vietnam for Development of Logistics Services

MUTRAP finished last year but there will be a new programme Arise+ that will start to be implemented only in 2019.

Arise+ does not list specific actions on trade facilitation but it is defined in a broad and flexible way so we could  have activities related to trade facilitation (if needed) in the framework of the 4th component i.e. "comprehensive implementation of the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement".

The EU Contribution to the WB TFSP

The general objective of our contribution (€ 9.6 m) is to assist DCs and LDCs reform their customs laws, procedures and processes in a manner consistent with the WTO TFA. A main element of the rationale for EU's contribution to this trust fund is to ensure that all Developing Countries having ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement would have access to development assistance, even in the event that such assistance could not be mobilised through the NIPs or RIPs.

**UNCTAD**

EU – DG Trade finances a programme of 400 000 euros on trade facilitation to Africa. The programme has started but most activities remain to be carried out in 2019-2020. Gabon and Cameroun are beneficiaries.

* **The EU is working on updating of its notification. However it is worth recalling that EU programmes are multi annual, therefore our notification will not consist in announcing new aid but rather in providing more details on certain actions launched.**