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**Turkey
and
Belarus**

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on mutual trade promotion system (with annex). Minsk, 11 November 2016

Entry into force: 29 July 2017, in accordance with article 13

Authentic texts: English, Russian and Turkish

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**Turquie
et
Bélarus**

Accord entre le Gouvernement de la République turque et le Gouvernement de la République du Bélarus relatif au système de promotion du commerce mutuel (avec annexe). Minsk, 11 novembre 2016

Entrée en vigueur : 29 juillet 2017, conformément à l'article 13

Textes authentiques : anglais, russe et turc

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**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS
ON
MUTUAL TRADE PROMOTION SYSTEM**

The Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Belarus, hereinafter referred to as separately by “Party” and jointly by “Parties”,

Referring to the provisions of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters (signed on 11 November 2008),

Aspiring to strengthen the cooperation between the Parties in order to protect the economic and social interests of the States of the Parties,

Recognizing the need to enhance the efficiency of customs control of goods and vehicles moved between the States of the Parties,

On purpose for reduction of terms of carrying out and creation of conditions for simplification of customs control of the goods and vehicles moved between the States of the Parties,

On purpose for ensuring development of the Mutual Trade Promotion System and its security,

Have agreed as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1

The Parties authorize the Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties on implementation of this Agreement:

- in the Republic of Turkey: the Ministry of Customs and Trade of the Republic of Turkey;
- in the Republic of Belarus: the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

ARTICLE 2

The Mutual Trade Promotion System (MTPS) is based on exchange of significant information about movement of goods and vehicles in accordance with the technologies of the exchange of information between the Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties.

OBJECT AND SCOPE

ARTICLE 3

1. The content of exchanged information is formed according to the Annex to this Agreement which is an integral part of the Agreement.
2. The exchange of information shall proceed on consignments carried out by the trade operators, benefiting from the MTPS.
3. The technical conditions of the exchange of information shall be elaborated and approved by the Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties within six (6) months after the signing of the Agreement.
4. The MTPS shall be a common practice applicable to all modes of transport and all kinds of goods.
5. The MTPS shall be applied to the Turkish and Belarusian companies on voluntary basis.
6. The Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties shall avoid contradictions to this Agreement, which shall harm the voluntary nature of this regulation as per non-participating companies in the MTPS.
7. The MTPS shall be transparent, predictable, and nondiscriminatory. The MTPS practices shall not result in any unfair competition.

ARTICLE 4

Companies, which shall be subject to the MTPS shall have the following benefits:

- a) Priority at the customs points in accordance with the national legislation of the Parties;
- b) Facilitated customs formalities, where feasible, including separate lanes leading to shortened clearance times;
- c) Non-applying of customs examination at points of customs control except for cases of customs offences and smuggling.

USE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS

ARTICLE 5

1. The Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties shall ensure the use of the information, obtained within the framework of this Agreement, for the purposes of performing customs clearance and customs control of goods and vehicles, moved between the States of the Parties.
2. Information obtained by the Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties shall be used exclusively for customs purposes and cannot be forwarded to third parties without a written consent of the Customs Authority of the State of the Party, which provided the information.

ARTICLE 6

The Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties, during the organization of electronic exchange of information on goods and vehicles moved between their States, shall use the norms, standards and recommendations of the United Nations, the World Customs Organization and the national legislation of the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Belarus and the international best practices of information exchange.

ARTICLE 7

In accordance with their national legislations, the Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties shall take appropriate measures on violations of this Agreement and inform each other on those violations, as well as on discrepancies and/or falseness of data on goods and vehicles moved between the States of the Parties that were received during the information exchange.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

ARTICLE 8

The Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties shall determine the list of appropriate customs officials authorized to establish direct contacts for the purposes to:

- a) develop and agree the technical conditions of the exchange of information and technologies of data processing and transmitting, as well as data security requirements,
- b) settle the technical problems occurred during the implementation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 9

1. In order to elaborate the technologies of the exchange of information envisaged by this Agreement, the Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties shall organize and carry out a Pilot Project with the duration of six (6) months after entry into force of this Agreement that could be prolonged upon the mutual written agreement of the Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties.
2. During the first three (3) months of the Pilot Project, the Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties shall agree on:
 - a) the main technical conditions of the exchange of information;
 - b) the list, structure and format of the data to be transmitted;
 - c) the requirement for the information security;
 - d) the procedure of organization of the cooperation between the Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties within the framework of the MTPS procedure;
 - e) the Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties shall determine the customs authorities of their respective Administrations in which the customs operations for the goods which are transported under the MTPS shall be carried out.
3. The Customs Authorities of the States of the Parties shall inform each other in written about their readiness to begin the Pilot Project and customs bodies participating in the project.
4. In the following three (3) months the Parties shall carry out the practical realization of the MTPS.

OTHER AGREEMENTS

ARTICLE 10

The provisions of the present Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties resulting from other international agreements and conventions to which they are parties.