Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Azerbaijan

Ongoing initiatives

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Outline

- Paperless Trade Environment
- Cross-border Initiatives
- Next on Cross-Border Paperless Trade
How to facilitate trade further?

- Implement WTO TFA commitments in advance

- Take an integrated supply chain approach
  Customs-Commercial-Transport-Other Regulatory-Payments

- Benefit from Multilateral and Bilateral Initiatives
Study Results

Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation

Source: UN Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation 2017
Study Findings

Azerbaijan increased its overall implementation of trade facilitation measures from 52% in 2015 to 75.3% in 2017.

Its level of implementation is significantly higher than the level of Asia-Pacific (50.4%) and the level of North and Central Asia (51.8%).

Among the six core groups of trade facilitation measures, the most implemented in Azerbaijan is “Institutional arrangement and cooperation” measures (88.9%).

The least implemented is “Cross-border paperless trade” measures (44.4%). For “Paperless trade”, Azerbaijan’s implementation is above both the regional and sub-regional averages.
The most remarkable positive trend is reported in the customs system, whereas productivity of employees is the factor with the most noticeable negative shift compared to 2016.

Top 3 positive trends

1. Customs procedures and regulations
2. Flexibility of immigration policies
3. Political and social stability
Political Will

Strategic Roadmaps for development of national economy and main economic sectors (Dec 2016)

The access of local products and services into the foreign markets shall be encouraged through promotion of e-commerce solutions by developing e-commerce infrastructure and legal framework in line with international standards.
Online Trade Platform

“One additional measures for the strengthening of Azerbaijan’s position as a Digital Trade Hub and the expansion of foreign trade operations”

Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated February 22, 2017
What are we going to achieve?

Cross-border of exchange of data and documents is a strategic aim globally, but it will not happen immediately and operate perfectly, unless:

We aim to make it:

✓ Practical
✓ Tangible
✓ Achievable
✓ Incremental

Do not invent another wheel!
Cross-Border Data Exchange

Protocols and technical provision documents among customs administrations on electronic exchange of pre-arrival information have been secured.
Good News

- e-Signatures to be mutually recognized under GUAM initiative, as well as among Turkic States and between Azerbaijan and Russian Federation

- Georgia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are to launch a unified electronic transit document under ADB supported project

- EU NCTS is coming

- Digital Trade Hub to be extended
Study recommends

“....Azerbaijan may focus its trade facilitation efforts in particular on full implementation of “Formalities” measures, as well as on moving towards “Cross-border paperless trade”, in particular through active participation in the new regional UN treaty on cross-border paperless trade facilitation.”
Recommendations

Start with simple:

- Promote Bilateral Initiatives to gain momentum
- Promote mutual recognition of Trust Services
Customs Service of Azerbaijan

Thank you!

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