



Anti-Illicit Trade & Food Committee 2-YEAR PROGRAM

1. PRIORITY (topic) Consistent implementation of the National Program for Fighting the Grey Economy

Goal: Combating illicit trade should stay at the top of the agenda of the new Government. Full implementation on Law on Inspection Supervision as well further improvement of regulatory framework related to food and agriculture industry.

Proposed activity: Need for support of the FIC members to the systematic approach of the Government in activities of fighting grey economy – even more important during current global crisis when significant funds do not flow into the state budget due to illegal trade. FIC members' engagement and support is crucial and requires continuation in dedication to coordinated enforcement, open dialogue with stakeholders, assisting the GoV in planning and allocating adequate resources to upgrade the work of enforcement bodies and drafting the legislation. Special focus on the illicit trade problems within the most sensitive sectors – excise goods and food (upgrading of the food and AIT legislation – preventing the impact of the coming crisis caused by shortages in global supply chain)

2. PRIORITY (topic) Trade facilitation with simplified import and export procedures

Goal: Advocate for a more efficient import and export procedures in line with full implementation on Law on Inspection Supervision, adopting harmonized sectoral laws (as outlined in Article 69 of the Law on Inspection Supervision), while improving the efficiency of judicial proceedings in relation to illicit trade. By addressing these issues, the foundation will be laid for facilitating a higher level of freedom of movement for goods

Proposed activity: In line with the current global crisis and Gov efforts together with neighboring countries to boost regional trade (Open Balkan initiative), address the issues from the local institutional framework and regional non-customs barriers that are making import and export procedures more complex. Focus on resolving technical difficulties within the authorities in Serbia ranging from an uneven treatment of customs officials that vary between border customs offices, uneven issuance practice for certificate of origin (non-recognition of productions inputs), requirement of paper documents by different state authorities (customs and inspections) due to the lack of electronic connectivity between these institutions, etc.



Alignment of Serbian regulations with EU standards completely. Additionally, it is important to ensure consistent interpretation of regulations across all sectors within the Ministries and to establish a unified approach by the different inspection bodies for enforcement

3. PRIORITY (topic)

The objective is to achieve complete alignment of Serbian regulations with EU, industry, and international standards, followed by a consistent and transparent implementation process, and referent contact points within Ministries, to address any variations in interpretation and implementation of the regulations. This initiative aims to facilitate the trade of goods and enhance cost efficiency by reducing bureaucracy

Goal:

Proposed activity:

Ongoing dialogue with state and industry counterparts

Establishment and implementation of a comprehensive risk assessment system for ensuring food safety

4. PRIORITY (topic)

The objective is to implement inspection controls that are guided by effective risk management principles. This will help reduce complexity and ensure consistent application of procedures, eliminating disparities in the treatment of domestic producers compared to those who import all or some of their products or ingredients.

Goal:

Proposed activity:

Advocating meaningful risk control inspection model, and utilization of centralized information management tools with consolidated data (with track records of operators), constructive cooperation in relevant processes.

Wide visibility of the Committee - important factor in public discussions on AIT and Food issues

5. PRIORITY (topic)

Efficient cooperation with main GoV stakeholders and raising awareness and significance of AIT and Food related topics – national and regional approach

Goal:

Proposed activity:

Continuation of already established dialogue and cooperation with Government bodies on AIT and food related issues. Open dialogue with stakeholders. Joint actions with inspections, Prosecutor Office, Courts in order to reduce complexity and inconsistent application of procedures and create more efficient work and results. Initiating activities aimed at keeping the public and Government focus on the importance of ongoing anti-illicit trade actions (twice per year organize meeting with inspection/Police, presenting results of their activities as well AIT & Food Committee members supportive ideas)
