

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION 6/2016

of 17 February

ESTABLISHES THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR TRADE FACILITATION (CONFAC)

Considering that the Program of the VI Constitutional Government, as recommended by the Strategic Development Plan and, more recently, by the Tax Reform program, highlights the need to adopt measures to diversify our economy, which are essential to reduce dependency on mineral resource revenues and to make our economic growth sustainable;

Recognizing that the growth of the non-oil economy requires, among others, a joint effort to facilitate trade, in its national and international dimensions, which will increase exports, reduce the price of imports and, at the same time, facilitate the interaction of our economy with the surrounding regional economies and on a global scale;

Bearing in mind that trade facilitation requires cross-cutting measures of administrative and logistical simplification, harmonization of procedures and standards, and the promotion of the best use of information and communication technologies, in order to provide a quality service to citizens and companies;

Whereas the importance of trade facilitation is internationally recognized as a determining factor in reducing the transaction costs of international trade by, among others, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO)

Taking into account the effort and institutional commitment of the State of Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN at first and to the WTO at a subsequent moment, as well as the need to adapt our legal and economic system to the challenges imposed by the integration in the economic community of ASEAN, namely at the level of the creation of a National Commission for Trade Facilitation;

The Government resolves, in accordance with Articles 115(1)(n) and 116(c) of the Constitution of the Republic, the following:

1. To approve the creation of the National Trade Facilitation Commission and its statutes annexed to the present resolution, as an integral part thereof.
2. This Resolution shall enter into force on the day following its publication.

Approved by the Council of Ministers on February 9, 2016.

Be it published,

The Prime Minister

Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo

ANNEX

Article 1

National Trade Facilitation Commission

The National Trade Facilitation Commission, abbreviated as CONFAC, is created as a consultative forum to promote dialogue between the Government, the private sector and other trade facilitation stakeholders, with the objective of advising and making recommendations to the Government aimed at promoting import and export facilitation and coordinating all Government work involving trade facilitation.

Article 2

Functions

CONFAC has as its functions:

- a) To promote dialogue between the Government, the private sector and other stakeholders on import and export facilitation;
- b) To promote the analysis of policies and procedures applicable to import and export and determine the implementation of measures for their simplification and harmonization;
- c) Coordinate consultations and recommendations to the Government aimed at facilitating and simplifying import and export;
- d) Support the Government in the implementation of legislative, process and procedure reforms for import and export facilitation;
- e) Coordinate all Government work involving import and export facilitation.

Article 3

Composition

1. CONFAC is composed of Executive Members, a Technical Working Group, a Secretariat and Observer Members.
2. The Executive Members:
 - a) Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs (MECAE);
 - b) Minister of Finance;
 - c) Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communications;
 - d) Minister of the Interior;
 - e) Minister of Commerce, Industry and the Environment;
 - f) Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
 - g) Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.
3. Members of the Technical Working Group:
 - a) Director General of Customs;
 - b) Coordinator of the Tax Reform Program;
 - c) Representative of the MECAE;

- d) Representative for ASEAN matters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
 - e) Inspector General of Food Security;
 - f) Director of the East Timor Port Authority (APORTIL);
 - g) Director of the Civil Aviation Authority of Timor-Leste (AACTL);
 - h) Director General of Immigration;
 - i) National Director of Quarantine and Bio-Security.
4. The following representatives of the private sector are Non-Executive Members:
- a) The President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or his/her representative;
 - b) President of the Association of Customs Brokers, or his/her representative.
5. The World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank are Observer Members.
6. The Director General of Customs shall coordinate the Technical Working Group.

Article 4

Chair

1. CONFAC shall be jointly chaired by the Minister of State, Coordinator of Economic Affairs and the Minister of Finance, and the respective function may be delegated to another Executive Member in their absences or impediments.
2. At the invitation of CONFAC's Chairperson, other members of the Government or representatives of the Public Administration and the private sector may participate in executive meetings and in meetings of the Technical Working Group.
3. CONFAC's Chairperson shall present to the Council of Ministers, every six months or when requested, the result of the reforms implemented, as well as the recommendations for the effective implementation of the proposed activities.

Article 5

Secretariat

CONFAC is assisted by a Secretariat responsible for coordinating the executive meetings and the Technical Working Group, as well as having the content of the dialogues and the decisions taken recorded in minutes.

Article 6

Technical Advisory

As regards legislative, process and procedure reforms, CONFAC is advised by trade facilitation experts, namely the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank, without prejudice to technical support from other related organizations.