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Committee on Trade Facilitation

Original: English

## REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT

### COMMUNICATION FROM SAINT LUCIA

The following communication, dated 9 November 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Saint Lucia.

In accordance with the recommendation resulting from the first review of the operation and implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (G/TFA/2, paragraph 9.2 vi.)<sup>1</sup>, Saint Lucia hereby confirms, for information purposes, that it has fulfilled the following commitments under Trade Facilitation Agreement, as detailed below:

Provision	Heading/Description	Category	Definitive date for implementation
Article 1.1	Publication	B	29 December 2023
<p>The Saint Lucia Constitution requires all laws to be published in the Official Gazette: Constitution of Saint Lucia – Article 47. Mode of Exercise of legislative power - <a href="https://www.govt.lc/constitution3Part2#section47">https://www.govt.lc/constitution3Part2#section47</a>.</p> <p>In addition, the Customs (Control and Management) Act requires the Customs Comptroller to publish all provisions in relation to the Act or subsidiary legislation made under the Act in the Official Gazette: Customs Act – Article 10. Directions - <a href="http://www.customs.gov.lc/legislation/customs-core-legislation/customs-control-and-management-act-cap.15.05.pdf">http://www.customs.gov.lc/legislation/customs-core-legislation/customs-control-and-management-act-cap.15.05.pdf</a>.</p> <p>The Saint Lucia Official Gazette including any accompanying legislation are accessible via the National Printing Corporation website - <a href="http://www.slugovprintery.com">http://www.slugovprintery.com</a>.</p> <p>Information in keeping with Article 1.1 of the TFA is also published on the Saint Lucia Customs and Excise Department website - <a href="http://www.customs.gov.lc">www.customs.gov.lc</a>.</p> <p>On this basis, Saint Lucia is satisfied that it has met the requirements of this measure.</p>			

<sup>1</sup> Building on the discussions during this first review of the operation and implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement, and with a view to furthering its work in regard to Section II of the TFA, the Committee: vi. recommends that Members whose implementation dates have passed for their category B or C provisions, and on a voluntary basis and for informational purposes only: (i) confirm the passing of implementation dates in any form or reporting (orally or in writing); and/or (ii) share their implementation experiences with the Committee while explicitly mentioning the provision they have implemented. Category B and Category C provisions shall be implemented on the definitive dates as notified by Members as per Article 16.5 of the Agreement. The Committee could encourage those Members who have implemented category B provisions in particular to take the actions above. It should be noted that this proposal never intends to modify the Members' obligations under the TFA.

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Heading/Description</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Definitive date for implementation</b>
Article 1.3	Enquiry Point	C	30 June 2023
<p>Saint Lucia was unable to identify or secure a donor to assist with implementation of this measure. In 2022, Saint Lucia made a request to a development partner for assistance to establish its enquiry point system including a request for assistance for another measure, however, at the time of the request, priority was given towards assisting Saint Lucia with the other measure due to the availability of resources.</p> <p>Using national resources, Saint Lucia implemented an enquiry point system through a helpdesk feature on the Saint Lucia Customs and Excise Department website to deal with enquiries in relation to Article 1.1. of the WTO TFA including other trade and customs related enquiries. The helpdesk feature is accessible via the following link - <a href="http://www.customs.gov.lc">www.customs.gov.lc</a> / <a href="http://www.customs.gov.lc/contact-us.php">http://www.customs.gov.lc/contact-us.php</a>.</p> <p>Saint Lucia also has a national enquiry point in place, details of which is available on the Customs website which is accessible via the same link as the help desk.</p> <p>On this basis, Saint Lucia is satisfied that it has met the requirements of this measure.</p>			

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Heading/Description</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Definitive date for implementation</b>
Article 2.1	Opportunity to Comment and Information Before Entry into Force	B	28 July 2023
<p>Border agencies in Saint Lucia provide opportunities and an appropriate period for traders and other interested stakeholders to comment on the proposed introduction or amendment of laws and regulations of general application related to the movement, release, and clearance of goods, including goods in transit.</p> <p>Saint Lucia is satisfied that it has implemented this measure.</p>			

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Heading/Description</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Definitive date for implementation</b>
Article 2.2	Consultations	B	28 July 2023
<p>Stakeholder consultations before the entry into force of the proposed introduction or amendment of laws and regulations of general application related to the movement, release, and clearance of goods, including goods in transit are regularly held through the National Trade Facilitation Committee structure. In addition, the Customs Administration and other border agencies use delayed application when legislation is gazetted. A timeframe of 3-6 months is observed post-enactment.</p> <p>Saint Lucia is satisfied that it has implemented this measure.</p>			

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Heading/Description</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Definitive date for implementation</b>
Article 7.1	Pre-arrival Processing	B	28 April 2023
<p>The Saint Lucia Customs and Excise Department uses the upgraded version of the ASYCUDA World System being version 4.2.2 which allows for the submission of import documentation and other required information, including manifests, to be lodged and begin processing before the arrival of goods in order to expedite the release of goods upon arrival. Advance lodging of documents is possible in electronic format for pre-arrival processing of such documents.</p> <p>Saint Lucia is satisfied that it has met the requirements of this measure.</p>			

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Heading/Description</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Definitive date for implementation</b>
Article 7.5	Post Clearance Audit	B	28 April 2023
<p>The Saint Lucia Customs and Excise Department has adopted a post-clearance audit unit and procedures to ensure compliance with customs and other related laws and regulations. An annual plan is developed and adopted on an annual basis, and the result of post-clearance audits are applied in risk management. A Post-clearance audit manual has been developed and is used for internal processes.</p> <p>Saint Lucia is satisfied that it has met the requirements of this measure.</p>			

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