



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Workshop on ROOs
Marrakesh, Morocco
22-23 December 2016

Rules of Origin in International Trade: Techniques and Applications for the Arab Region**PROGRAMME OF WORK**

Day 1

8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 09:30	Opening Session and review of the workshop objectives and agenda
9:30 – 10:30	Session Two: ROOs in international trade regulations WCO Preferential trade agreements are a prominent feature of today’s trading system. They have become an important trade policy tool for virtually all trading nations and the number of preferential trade agreements has been steadily increasing over the last decades. RoOs are important legal instruments for the application of preferential trade agreements. With the proliferation of these agreements, economic operators are faced with a plethora of divergent and often overlapping preferential RoOs, which presents challenges to both the business community and the authorities implementing the origin legislation. This session will focus on the RoOs in the context of multilateral negotiations and the issues discussed on a global level.
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break

- 11:00 – 11:45 **Session Three: The impact of ROOs on the business sector of Arab countries**
ITC
This session will present insights from ITC’s surveys on the perception of exporters and importers on regulatory and procedural obstacles to trade.
- 11:45 – 13:45 Lunch Break
- 13:45 – 14:30 **Session Four: The classification of ROOs**
ITC
This session will illustrate how RoOs will appear in the revised International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures.
- 14:30 – 16:00 **Session Five: The evolution of the Pan-European RoOs: context and new techniques**
WCO
The EU has made significant changes to its preferential RoO regimes over the years, both in the context of its reciprocal preferential agreements but also under its Generalized System of Preferences.
This session will discuss the evolution of the EU’s Rules of Origin, from the initial Pan-Euro-Mediterranean system to the new changes introduced or being introduced under the new trade agreements signed or being negotiated with other countries. The case of reforms of the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean RoOs will be elaborated.
- 16:00 End of Day One

Day 2

- 9:00 – 10:30 **Session Six: ROOs in overlapping FTAs: The case of the Arab Region**
ESCWA
This session will present and analyze the structure of various ROOs applied in the context of Arab FTAs in force with key partners. Accordingly, a comparison between the EU approach and that of other prominent partners, such as the US, will be provided, with a view to identifying key differences and their likely effects on Arab trade with the rest of the world.
- 10:30 – 11:00
Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 **Session Seven: How to define ROOs in the context of the Arab Customs Union?**
This session will discuss ongoing negotiations on ROOs under PAFTA and alternative approaches for designing Pan-Arab ROOs in the context of the ACU.
- 13:00 End of the workshop