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Information document

INFORMATION NOTE

TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CUSTOMS EXPERTS GROUP

ORIGIN SECTION

(COPY TO MEMBERS OF: CEG-INT; CEG-GEN; TCG)

Subject: Use of the Country Name "Türkiye" instead of "Turkey" on Proofs of Origin and Movement Certificates

Update – 11/10/2022

Following consultations of the Member States, an agreement has been found last week in the Council regarding the use of the country's new official name in English.

In accordance with the established administrative procedure as concerns country and entity denominations in EU documents, Member States delegations were informed by Council Secretariat that the IATE database (Interactive Terminology for Europe) and the inter-institutional style guide will be modified (work in progress) to reflect the change from "Turkey" to "Türkiye" in English.

Council Secretariat has also informed that:

- this administrative change is limited to the nomenclature used in EU documents;
- does not have a retroactive effect,
- entails no legal consequences.
- is without prejudice to the nomenclature used by Member States.

The Turkish Government, in line with Turkish Presidential Circular no: 2021/24 dated 3 December 2021 on the use of word "Türkiye" in foreign languages, has started using "Türkiye" to replace the words such as "Turkey", "Türkei", and "Turquie" that were used in the past to refer to the Republic of Turkey.

This change was notified officially to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by letter dated 26 May 2022 regarding the country name in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic. The country name change became effective within the UN from the moment the letter was received (1 June 2022).

A note verbale was sent to the Protocol Service of the European Commission on 1st of June 2022 requesting the EU to use “Republic of Türkiye” as the new official name of the “Republic of Turkey” in English, and informing that the word “Türkiye” can also be used to refer to the “Republic of Türkiye” as a short version of the name of the country.

The EU official position and relevant guidance is still pending and could involve the need to revise legal texts and Agreements between EU and Turkey accordingly.

On 5 July 2022, the Turkish Ministry of Trade – DG for International Agreements and EU Relations has informed DG TAXUD that this change needs to be reflected also on the relevant parts of the proofs of origin and of the movement certificates used both in preferential and non-preferential trade where the name of the country is to be indicated.

The Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Turkey and other authorised public entities have started issuing these documents in a way that only the word “Türkiye” is being used to refer to that country. Within a short period of time, until all technical arrangements are completed, all documents issued in Türkiye will bear the word “Türkiye” only.

The same change is applicable for the proofs of origin made out by the Turkish exporter such as the invoice declaration, the origin declaration and the statement on origin.

The Turkish Authorities have asked that the term “Türkiye” is used also on the proofs of origin and the movement certificates as well as commercial documents for customs purposes issued in EU member States.

For that reason, pending the official EU position on this matter and in order not to create obstacles to the flow of goods between Turkey and the EU, the Customs Administrations of the EU Member States are kindly requested:

- ⇒ to take the necessary steps to ensure that these documents will not be rejected because the new country name "Türkiye" is used;
- ⇒ to make aware the national business community about this request for a change by Turkey.

Please note that Turkish Authorities have assured that Turkish customs offices will continue to accept proofs of origin and movement certificates bearing the old name considering that time is needed to adapt to this change.

Any difficulties encountered in applying this note may be shared with Sandro.Le-Noci@ec.europa.eu