

REPORT (2010) OF THE COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS

1. Since the last review¹, the Committee on Market Access has held two formal meetings (29 April and 11 October 2010), two informal dedicated sessions of the Committee (5 March and 26 July 2010) and several consultations. The minutes of the formal meetings are contained in documents G/MA/M/51 and Corr.1 and G/MA/M/52. In addition, two periodic reports giving an overview of the issues discussed in the Committee are contained in documents G/MA/242 and G/MA/243.

2. At its meeting of 29 April, the Committee elected Mr. Daniel Owoko (Kenya) as Chairman of the Committee for the current year. At its meeting of 11 October, the Committee elected Ms. Sabrina Musumeci (Switzerland) as Vice-Chairperson.

A. WAIVERS

3. At its meeting of 29 April, the Committee approved a waiver request from Argentina (G/L/918) in connection with the introduction of HS96 changes to its schedule². At its meeting of 11 October, the Committee approved the extension of the HS2002 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/637) and the extension of the HS2007 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/638).

B. INTRODUCTION OF HS96 CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

4. At its meetings in 2010, the Committee examined the situation related to the submission of HS96 documentation (G/MA/TAR/2/Rev.44 and 45) pursuant to the procedures laid out in GATT document L/6905. The Committee also took note of the reports by the Chairman on the multilateral reviews held to examine the HS96 files of 64 Members pursuant to the decision on "Procedures leading to the verification and certification of HS96 changes relating to the schedules of 64 Members" (WT/L/756).

C. INTRODUCTION OF HS2002 CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

5. At its meetings in 2010, the Committee took note of the reports provided by the Secretariat on the status of work concerning the introduction of HS2002 changes to schedules of concessions using the CTS database as well as on the outcomes of the informal dedicated sessions of the Committee during which the HS02 files of Members were examined. At its meeting in October, the Committee also considered some changes to the existing procedure to introduce HS2002 changes to schedules of concessions using the CTS database (JOB/MA/51). In light of comments made at the meeting, the Committee agreed that the Secretariat should revise the document and that Members be

¹ G/L/896, dated 13 October 2009.

² The General Council adopted the draft waiver decision on 29 July 2010 (WT/L/801).

allowed time to review the changes. It was also agreed that if no comments were submitted following such a review, the revised document³ would be transmitted to the General Council for adoption.

D. INTRODUCTION OF HS2007 CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

6. At its 29 April meeting, the Committee reviewed the situation in relation to the exercise to introduce HS2007 changes to schedules of concessions using the CTS database pursuant to WT/L/673. The Committee agreed to maintain the suspension in place in respect of this exercise and to review the situation at a subsequent meeting.

E. INTRODUCTION OF HS2012 CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

7. At its 29 April meeting, the Committee took note of the presentation by a representative from the WCO on the future HS2012 changes which were circulated in G/MA/W/100.

F. IMPROVING THE TIMELINESS AND COMPLETENESS OF NOTIFICATIONS

8. At its 29 April meeting, the Committee took note of the report by the Chairman on the outcome of action taken in respect of the Decision on Reverse Notification of Non-Tariff Measures (G/L/60). Also, during the year, the Committee took note of the reports by the Chairman on the consultations conducted in relation to the Decision on Notification Procedures for Quantitative Restrictions (G/L/59).

G. DATABASES – THE INTEGRATED DATA BASE (IDB) AND THE CTS DATABASE

9. In respect to the IDB, at its formal meetings in 2010, the Committee examined the status of IDB submissions on the basis of documents G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.31 and Rev.32. The Secretariat also reported on *inter alia* use of IDB information, the status of software development and technical assistance. The Committee took note of the report by the Secretariat on the implementation of the "Framework to enhance IDB notifications compliance" (G/MA/239). This Framework had been elaborated in the context of the Committee's discussion on improving the timeliness and completeness of notifications.

10. Concerning the CTS database, at its meeting of 29 April, the Committee considered the revised formats to be used in the new version of the CTS database in the HS2002 nomenclature JOB/MA/13. However, in light of some questions still remaining on this document, the Committee agreed to revisit it at a future meeting. At its meeting of 11 October, the Committee examined and approved a revised version of this document (JOB/MA/13/Rev.1)⁴.

11. Concerning dissemination of the databases, at its April meeting, the Committee took note of the report by the Secretariat on the dissemination of the IDB and the CTS database (G/MA/238 and Add.1) where it was noted that in order to make the information in the IDB and CTS database available to the public, the Secretariat had launched the Tariff Analysis Online on 3 February 2010. At its meeting on 11 October, the Committee approved the request (G/MA/W/103) from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for access to the IDB and CTS database.

³ In light of comments made on the revised document, the Chairman proposed that JOB/MA/51 be once again considered by Members and a time-period was given for comments. As no comments were received, document JOB/MA/51 was considered approved by the Committee and was re-issued as G/MA/W/104. This document was forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

⁴ The approved document was re-issued as G/MA/244.

H. OTHER ACTIVITIES

12. At its meeting in April, the Committee took note of the information provided by Canada on its unilateral elimination of certain mfn applied tariffs (G/MA/W/101). At its meeting in October, the Chairman reported on an ongoing process to derestrict certain bilateral negotiating documentation relating to earlier GATT rounds of negotiations. The Committee also took note of the Secretariat document which provided website addresses of national tariffs (G/MA/TAR/3/Rev.14).
