

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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REPORT (2009) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE¹

1. The Committee held its forty-eighth and forty-ninth regular meetings on 18-19 March and 25-26 June 2009, chaired by Ms Xueyan Guo (China) and Mr. Aldo (Ami) Levin (Israel).²
2. At each of the meetings in 2009, the Committee heard statements from a number of Members informing the Committee of measures taken to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement. In total, since 1995, 118 Members have submitted at least one Statement on implementation and administration under Article 15.2 of the TBT Agreement.
3. New specific trade concerns were brought to the attention of the Committee with regard to their potential adverse trade effects or inconsistency with the Agreement, and the Committee heard exchanges on several trade concerns that have been previously raised (G/TBT/GEN/74/Rev.2).
4. During the reporting period, the Committee continued the exchange of experiences on various horizontal issues arising from the operation and implementation of the Agreement, including: good regulatory practice, conformity assessment procedures, transparency and technical assistance. In particular, the TBT Committee explored, in 2009, the subject of standards. With a view to deepening its understanding of the how the use of international standards and conformity assessment systems facilitates the conduct of international trade, the Committee held, on 16-17 March 2009, a Workshop on the Role of International Standards in Economic Development.³
5. At its meeting on 18-19 March 2009, the Committee adopted its report of the Fourteenth Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement under Article 15.3 (G/TBT/25). At the same meeting, the Committee carried out the Fourteenth Annual Review of the Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards. This work was based on the following background documents: a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code in the period under review (G/TBT/CS/1/Add.13), a list of standardizing bodies that have accepted the Code since 1 January 1995 (G/TBT/CS/2/Rev.15) and the Fourteenth Edition of the WTO TBT Standards Code Directory prepared by the ISO/IEC Information Centre.
6. During the reporting period, representatives of the Codex, IEC, ISO, ITC, OECD, OIML, UNECE and UNIDO updated the Committee on activities relevant to the work of the TBT Committee, including on technical assistance.

¹ The report has been prepared under the responsibility of the Chairman. It covers the first two meetings of the TBT Committee in 2009 and will be complemented (by addendum) after the Committee's last meeting in 2009.

² G/TBT/M/47-48.

³ A report by the Secretariat (G/TBT/W/310) provides a summary of key points and issues that arose from the presentations and discussions during the Workshop. The full presentations made by speakers are available on the WTO TBT Website (http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news09_e/tbt_16mar09_e.htm).