

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/L/1010
6 November 2012

(12-6104)

REPORT (2012) OF THE COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS

1. Since the last review¹, the Committee on Market Access has held two formal meetings (26 April and 16 October 2012) and three informal meetings (19 March, 2 July and 17 September 2012). The minutes of the formal meetings are contained in documents G/MA/M/55 and G/MA/M/56. In addition, two periodic reports giving an overview of the issues discussed in the Committee are contained in documents G/MA/284 and G/MA/286. At its meeting in October, the Committee agreed to hold consultations in order to see whether these periodic reports were necessary.

2. At its meeting of 26 April, the Committee took note of the nomination of Mr. Bipin Menon (India) as Chairman of the Committee for the current year and elected him by acclamation. At its meeting of 16 October, the Committee elected Ms Laurie Molnar (United States) as Vice-Chairperson.

A. WAIVERS

3. At its meeting of 16 October, the Committee approved the extension of the HS2002 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/672)², the HS2007 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/673) and the HS2012 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/674). The Committee agreed to forward the draft waiver decisions to the Council for Trade in Goods for appropriate action.

B. INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 1996 (HS1996) CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

4. At its meetings in 2012, the Committee took note of the status of the HS1996 transposition work undertaken pursuant to the procedures contained in L/6905 and WT/L/756. Furthermore, at its October meeting, the Committee took note of the report by the Chairman concerning consultations he had held with Members who had still to complete their HS1996 transposition exercise.

C. INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 2002 (HS2002) CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

5. At its meetings in 2012, the Committee took note of the status of work concerning the introduction of HS2002 changes to schedules of concessions using the CTS database (WT/L/605), as well as the outcomes of the informal dedicated sessions of the Committee during which the files containing the HS2002 changes of Members were examined.

¹ G/L/967, dated 26 October 2011.

² A revised version of the draft decision was issued to remove Mexico and Thailand from the annex as they have now completed their HS2002 procedures.

D. INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 2007 (HS2007) CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

6. At its meeting in April, the Committee approved on an *ad referendum* basis the document entitled "Transposition of Members' CTS Files to the HS2007 Nomenclature - Notes on Methodology" which included a new paragraph proposed by the Secretariat at the meeting. The document with the new paragraph was considered approved and re-issued as G/MA/283 as no comments were submitted by 17 May. During its informal meeting in July, the Committee held a discussion on the subject of non-consensus correlated HS2007 lines based on a room document prepared by the Secretariat. At its meeting of October, the Committee took note of the status of work concerning the introduction of HS2007 changes to schedules of concessions using the CTS database.

E. INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 2012 (HS2012) CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

7. At its meeting of October, the Committee was informed by the Secretariat that a Member had submitted its HS2012 file; the first submission under the HS2012 procedures (WT/L/831).

F. DECISION ON NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS

8. At its April meeting, the Committee approved the draft Decision on Notification Procedures for Quantitative Restrictions (G/MA/W/110) and agreed to forward it to the Council for Trade in Goods for adoption³. At its informal meeting in July, the Committee took note of the practical guide for the preparation of the notification which had been prepared by the Secretariat and circulated as JOB/MA/101. At its October meeting, the Committee examined the quantitative restriction notifications submitted by two Members and agreed to revert to a third notification at its next meeting. The Committee also took note that additional notifications had been notified subsequent to 30 September and would be examined at the next formal meeting of the Committee. The Committee was informed that in respect of the quantitative restriction database, the intention was to make it available to the public early next year.

G. DATABASES

9. At its meetings in 2012, the Secretariat reported on the status of work concerning the Integrated Data Base (IDB) and the Consolidated Tariff Schedules (CTS) database. The reports provided information on *inter alia* the use of information in the databases, the status of software development and technical assistance. The Committee also took note of the document which reflected the status of submissions to the IDB (G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.35 and G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.36). The Committee was informed that the Secretariat intended to integrate into the IDB historical tariff and import information for 29 countries covering years 1988 to 1995. The Secretariat also intended to put together a consolidated document on IDB notification for ease of reference.

H. DERESTRICTION OF THE NEGOTIATING MATERIAL OF THE DILLON ROUND AND SOME NEGOTIATING MATERIAL OF THE FOUR EARLIER GATT ROUNDS

10. At its meeting in April, the Committee took note of the current status of the process to derestrict certain bilateral negotiating documentation relating to earlier GATT rounds of negotiations. At its meeting in October, the Committee approved procedures which were being proposed for the derestriction of the negotiating material of the Dillon Round and some negotiating material of the four earlier GATT rounds (JOB/MA/102)⁴. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that the negotiating

³ The adopted decision was issued in document G/L/59/Rev.1.

⁴ The approved procedures were issued in document G/MA/285.

material pertaining to the earlier negotiating rounds which had been derestricted was available on the WTO public website.

I. UKRAINE'S ARTICLE XXVIII NOTIFICATION

11. The Committee took note of the statements made under the agenda item relating to Ukraine's Article XXVIII notification contained in G/SECRET/34.

J. OTHER ACTIVITIES

12. At its meeting in April, the Committee took note of the Secretariat document entitled "Situation of Schedules of WTO Members" (G/MA/W/23/Rev.8) which compiled in one place the legal instruments relating to each Member's schedule. The Committee also took note of statements concerning tariff increases on textiles by Turkey.
