

Committee on Market Access

REPORT (2005) OF THE COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS

1. Since the last review¹, the Committee on Market Access has held three formal meetings (two on 30 March 2005 (a resumed meeting as well as a regular meeting) and a third one on 3 October 2005), and five informal meetings (1 November, 30 November, 10 December 2004, 29 June and 3 October 2005). The minutes of the formal meetings are contained in documents G/MA/M/38/Add.1, G/MA/M/39 and G/MA/M/40. In addition, two periodic reports giving an overview of the issues discussed in the Committee and providing factual information on the requests for waivers and waiver extensions related to the Harmonized System are contained in documents G/MA/157 and Corr.1 and G/MA/163.

2. At its meeting of 30 March 2005, the Committee took note of the nomination of Mr. Martin Pospíšil (Czech Republic) as Chairman of the Committee for the current year and elected him by acclamation. At that meeting, it was agreed that informal consultations would be carried out in order to elect a Vice-Chair for the current year. At its meeting of 3 October 2005, the Committee elected Mr. Josip Pervan (Croatia) as the Vice-Chair.

A. INTRODUCTION OF HS96 CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

3. At its formal meetings in 2005, the Committee examined the situation related to the submission of HS96 documentation set out in documents G/MA/TAR/2/Rev.35-36.

B. INTRODUCTION OF HS2002 CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

4. At its meeting of 30 March 2005, the Committee took note of document G/MA/TAR/4/Rev.8 which contained information on HS2002 documentation submitted by Members under the old procedures (WT/L/407). In the course of its informal meetings at the end of 2004, the Committee discussed and was able to agree on the procedures for the introduction of HS2002 changes to schedules of concessions using the CTS database. These procedures were subsequently adopted by the General Council on 15 February 2005 (WT/L/605). At its meetings in 2005, the Secretariat reported on the status of work concerning the introduction of HS2002 changes to schedules of concessions using the CTS database. On 29 June 2005, the Secretariat gave a technical briefing to the Committee on issues arising from the HS2002 transposition exercise.

5. On the HS2002 "collective waiver" (WT/L/598), at its meeting of 3 October 2005, the Committee agreed that a draft decision extending this waiver until 31 December 2006 should be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to Members for comments prior to being forwarded to the CTG for appropriate action.

¹ G/L/699 (dated 13 October 2004).

C. INTRODUCTION OF HS2007 CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS

6. At its meeting of 30 March 2005, the Committee took note of the changes in the Harmonized System to be introduced on 1 January 2007 (G/MA/W/67). On that occasion, detailed information on these changes was also provided by the WCO representative.

D. DATABASES

7. With reference to the modalities and operation of the Integrated Data Base (IDB), the Committee, at its formal meetings in 2005, examined the status of IDB submissions on the basis of documents G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.21-22. At these meetings, the Secretariat reported on the status of IDB dissemination, use of IDB information, IDB technical assistance, status of submissions, and the status of software development (IDB reporting tools and internet analysis facility). At its meeting of 30 March 2005, the Committee took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the Common Analytical Market Access Database (JOB(04)/179).

8. At its formal meetings in 2005, the Committee took note of the Secretariat reports on the work undertaken on the Consolidated Tariff Schedules Database.

9. At its formal meetings in 2005, the Committee agreed to the requests for access to the IDB and CTS databases from the South Centre (G/MA/W/66), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (G/MA/W/68) and the Agency for International Trade Information and Co-operation (G/MA/W/69).

E. PARAGRAPH 18 OF THE PROTOCOL OF ACCESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA – CHINA'S TRANSITIONAL REVIEW MECHANISM

10. The review took place at the meeting of 3 October 2005. Questions and/or comments were circulated by the European Communities (G/MA/W/70), Japan (G/MA/W/72) and the United States (G/MA/W/71). The Committee completed its review and agreed to forward its report in G/MA/164 to the Council for Trade in Goods.

F. OTHER ACTIVITIES

11. At its meeting of 30 March 2005, the Committee took note of the statement by the European Communities concerning import bans in Nigeria. At its meeting of 3 October 2005, the Committee took note of the report by the Chairman of his consultations on "Certain Uncertified Commitments" (JOB(05)/167), and agreed to the procedures outlined in that note for the purpose of completing the certification process of those commitments. Also at that meeting, the Committee took note of a Secretariat document which provided detailed information on the situation of schedules of WTO members (G/MA/W/23/Rev.2).
