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**Council for Trade in Goods
Committee on Rules of Origin**

WTO RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

**REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS
BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORIGIN**

The following report is being submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Origin (CRO), Ms Laura GAUER, on her own responsibility and at the request of the Chairperson of the Council for Trade in Goods¹, and was prepared with the assistance of the Secretariat.

1 INFORMATION FOR THE CTG REPORT ON COVID-19 RELATED ACTIONS

1.1 Committee work

Since November 2020, the meetings of the CRO have taken place in hybrid mode, with some delegates attending in person and others joining via a virtual platform.

1.2 Transparency

Members did not submit to the CRO any notification specifically describing measures related to rules of origin and origin requirements in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, a number of Members submitted notifications to the Committee on Trade Facilitation which described measures taken in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and which related to rules of origin and origin requirements. In fact, restrictions to the movement of persons in order to fight the spread of the pandemic made it more difficult or impossible for economic operators to complete some administrative procedures, including those relating to rules of origin. Consequently, temporary flexibilities were introduced in relation to, for instance, the preparation of certificates of origin or the addition of official seals or the consularization of certificates of origin or the acceptance of certificates in electronic format.

1.3 Dedicated COVID-19 related activities or discussions in the Committee

There were no COVID-19 related activities in the context of the CRO.

However, during the CRO meeting held on 13 November 2020, the Secretariat drew the Committee's attention to the fact that a number of Members had implemented trade-facilitating measures in relation to origin requirements (RD/RO/90). Some delegations also took the floor to report the measures that they had introduced ([G/RO/M/75](#), item 6 of the agenda).

¹ JOB/CTG/18.