



27 November 2019

(19-8143)

Page: 1/23

**REPORT (2019) OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS**

In accordance with the "Procedures for an Annual Overview of WTO Activities and for Reporting under the WTO" (WT/L/105), the Council for Trade in Goods (CTG, or the Council) is to report each year to the General Council on the activities in the Council as well as those in its subsidiary bodies. The reports are to be "factual in nature, containing an indication of actions and decisions taken, with cross-references to reports of subordinate bodies and could follow the model of the GATT 1947 Council reports to the CONTRACTING PARTIES".

Since its 2018 Annual Report (G/L/1282 and G/L/1282/Add.1) was issued, the CTG met three times in formal session, on the following dates: 11 and 12 April 2019 (G/C/M/134<sup>1</sup>); 8 and 9 July 2019 (G/C/M/135); and 14 and 15 November 2019 (G/C/M/136<sup>2</sup>).

The subject matters raised and/or acted upon in the Council were as follows:

<b>1 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS FOR THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COUNCIL.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 MARKET ACCESS ISSUES .....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Collective Waiver Requests on the Introduction of the Harmonized System 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017 .....	5
<b>4 WAIVERS UNDER ARTICLE IX OF THE WTO AGREEMENT .....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1 Introduction of Harmonized System 2002 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions .....	5
4.1.1 Collective request for a waiver extension (G/C/W/768).....	5
4.2 Introduction of Harmonized System 2007 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions .....	5
4.2.1 Collective request for a waiver extension (G/C/W/769).....	5
4.3 Introduction of Harmonized System 2012 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions .....	5
4.3.1 Collective request for a waiver (G/C/W/770) .....	5
4.4 Introduction of Harmonized System 2017 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions .....	6
4.4.1 Collective request for a waiver (G/C/W/771) .....	6
4.5 Jordan – Request for a Waiver Relating to the Transitional Period for the Elimination of the Export Subsidy Programme for Jordan (G/C/W/705; G/C/W/705/Corr.1; G/C/W/705/Rev.1; and G/C/W/705/Rev.2).....	6
4.6 Chile, China, India, and Thailand – Request for the Extension of the Waiver for Preferential Tariff Treatment for Least Developed Countries (G/C/W/764) .....	6

<sup>1</sup> A reconvened meeting took place on Wednesday, 4 June 2019, to deal with Agenda Item No. 3, "Appointment of Officers to the Subsidiary Bodies of the Council for Trade in Goods" (see document G/C/M/134/Add.1). An informal meeting took place before this reconvened meeting.

<sup>2</sup> To be issued.

---

4.7 United States - Request for a Waiver – Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA as Amended) (G/C/W/765) .....	6
<b>5 ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: PROCEDURES UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:3 OF GATT 1994 .....</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1 Enlargement of the European Union to Include Croatia: Negotiations under Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994 – Request from the Russian Federation .....	7
<b>6 ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AND OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC TO THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION (EAEU): PROCEDURES UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:3 OF GATT 1994 .....</b>	<b>7</b>
6.1 Accession of the Republic of Armenia and of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU): Procedures under Article XXVIII:3 of GATT 1994 – Request from the European Union .....	7
6.2 Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Eurasian Economic Union: Procedures under Article XXVIII:3 of GATT 1994 (G/L/1137/Add.4) .....	7
6.3 Accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Eurasian Economic Union: Procedures under Article XXVIII:3 of GATT 1994 (G/L/1110/Add.5) .....	7
<b>7 SWITZERLAND – LIECHTENSTEIN – NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:5 OF GATT 1994 (G/L/1262/ADD.1).....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>8 NOTIFICATION OF REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9 NOTIFICATIONS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
9.1 Status of Notifications under the Provisions of the Agreements in Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement (G/L/223/Rev.26) .....	9
<b>10 ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION (G/TFA/W/14) .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>11 MEASURES TO ALLOW GRADUATED LDCS, WITH GNP BELOW US\$1,000, BENEFITS PURSUANT TO ANNEX VII(B) OF THE AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES (WT/GC/W/742 AND G/C/W/752) .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>12 EUROPEAN UNION – SAFEGUARD MEASURES ON INDICA RICE FROM CAMBODIA – REQUEST FROM CAMBODIA.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>13 EUROPEAN UNION – PROPOSED EU TARIFF RATE QUOTA COMMITMENTS: SYSTEMIC CONCERNs .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>14 EUROPEAN UNION – REGULATION EC NO. 1272/2008 (CLP REGULATION) – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>15 JAMAICA – REGULATIONS NOS. 145 AND 146 BANNING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>16 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE BAN ON THE MARKETING AND IMPORTATION OF POLYSTYRENE PLASTICS – REQUEST FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>17 EUROPEAN UNION – IMPLEMENTATION OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, CANADA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, JAMAICA, MALAYSIA, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, THE UNITED STATES, AND URUGUAY .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>18 UNITED STATES - MEASURES REGARDING MARKET ACCESS PROHIBITION FOR ICT PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM CHINA .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>19 UNITED STATES – EXPORT CONTROL MEASURES FOR ICT PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM CHINA .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>20 EUROPEAN UNION – MEDICAL DEVICE REGULATION AND IN VITRO DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL DEVICES REGULATION – REQUEST FROM THE UNITED STATES.....</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>21 TUNISIA – IMPORT RESTRICTION MEASURES – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>22 ANGOLA – IMPORT RESTRICTING PRACTICES.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>23 EUROPEAN UNION – REGULATION (EU) 2017/2321 AND REGULATION (EU) 2018/825 – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>24 INDONESIA'S IMPORT AND EXPORT RESTRICTING POLICIES AND PRACTICES – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION, JAPAN, NORWAY, AND THE UNITED STATES.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>25 INDIA – CUSTOMS DUTIES ON ICT PRODUCTS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>26 EGYPT – MANUFACTURER REGISTRATION SYSTEM – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>27 CROATIA – REGULATION OF IMPORT AND SALE OF CERTAIN OIL PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>28 RUSSIAN FEDERATION – TRADE RESTRICTING PRACTICES – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>29 KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND OMAN – SELECTIVE TAX ON CERTAIN IMPORTED PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION, SWITZERLAND, AND THE UNITED STATES ....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>30 CHINA – NEW EXPORT CONTROL LAW IN DRAFT– REQUEST FROM JAPAN .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>31 VIET NAM – DECREE ON THE REGULATION ON CONDITIONS FOR AUTOMOBILES MANUFACTURING, ASSEMBLING, IMPORTING, AND AUTOMOTIVE WARRANTY AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>32 MONGOLIA – QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS ON IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>33 INDIA – QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTION ON IMPORTS OF CERTAIN PULSES – REQUEST FROM AUSTRALIA, CANADA, THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND THE UNITED STATES .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>34 CHINA – CUSTOMS DUTIES ON CERTAIN INTEGRATED CIRCUITS – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION, JAPAN, AND CHINESE TAIPEI .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>35 CHINA – MEASURES RESTRICTING THE IMPORT OF SCRAP MATERIALS – REQUEST FROM THE UNITED STATES .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>36 EUROPEAN UNION – AMENDMENTS TO THE DIRECTIVE 2009/28/EC, RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE (RED) – REQUEST FROM COLOMBIA AND MALAYSIA .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>37 UNITED STATES – PROHIBITIVE PROPOSAL ON COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES RELEASED BY THE FCC – REQUEST FROM CHINA .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>38 UNITED STATES – MEASURES ON AVIATION SECURITY EQUIPMENT – REQUEST FROM CHINA .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>39 EUROPEAN UNION – QUALITY SCHEMES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FOODSTUFFS – THE REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN TERMS OF CHEESE AS GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS – REQUEST FROM ARGENTINA, THE UNITED STATES, AND URUGUAY .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>40 EUROPEAN UNION – DRAFT IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS REGARDING PROTECTED DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS, TRADITIONAL TERMS, LABELLING AND PRESENTATION OF CERTAIN WINE SECTOR PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED STATES.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>41 AUSTRALIA – DISCRIMINATORY MARKET ACCESS PROHIBITION ON 5G EQUIPMENT – REQUEST FROM CHINA.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>42 JAPAN – EXPORT CONTROL MEASURES ON MATERIALS ESSENTIAL FOR SEMICONDUCTORS AND DISPLAYS .....</b>	<b>20</b>

---

<b>43 TRANSPARENCY AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER WTO AGREEMENTS .....</b>	<b>21</b>
43.1 Communication from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, and the United States (JOB/GC/204/Rev.1–JOB/CTG/14/Rev.1 – JOB/GC/204/Rev.2–JOB/CTG/14/Rev.2) .....	21
43.2 An Inclusive Approach to Transparency and Notification Requirements in the WTO – Communication from Cuba, India, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe (JOB/GC/218, JOB/CTG/15, JOB/SERV/292, JOB/IP/33, JOB/DEV/58, JOB/AG/158) .....	21
<b>44 WORK PROGRAMME ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>45 BETTER FUNCTIONING OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS AND SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEES – STATEMENT BY HONG KONG, CHINA .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>46 CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>47 ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>48 OTHER BUSINESS.....</b>	<b>23</b>
48.1 Optimization of the CTG's Work in Line with the Practice of the General Council.....	23

## **1 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS**

1.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council elected by acclamation HE Mr José Luis Cancela Gómez (Uruguay) as its Chairperson for 2019-2020.

## **2 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS FOR THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COUNCIL**

2.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council agreed to suspend this agenda item in order for the outgoing Chair to hold additional consultations on this issue; it also agreed to reconvene a meeting to continue dealing with this agenda item once he, in his capacity as outgoing Chair, would be in a position to present a slate of names.

2.2. On 4 June, the Council reverted to this agenda item and, following an informal meeting at which the Chairperson had submitted to the Council the slate of names that had emerged as a result of his predecessor's consultations, agreed on the nominations of the following persons for election as Chairpersons of its subsidiary bodies for 2019:

<b>Chairpersons of CTG Subsidiary Bodies</b>	
Market Access	Mr Fernando Bruno ESCOBAR PACHECO (Plurinational State of Bolivia)
Agriculture	Mrs Christiane DALEIDEN DISTEFANO (Luxembourg)
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	Mr Daniel ARBOLEDA (Colombia)
Technical Barriers to Trade	Mr Sung hwa JANG (Republic of Korea)
TRIMs	Ms Tiziana ZUGLIANO (Italy)
Anti-Dumping Practices	Ms Lenka ŠUSTROVÁ (Czech Republic)
Subsidies and Countervailing Measures	Ms Michèle LEGAULT DOOLEY (Canada)
Safeguards	Ms Katherine DELLAR (Australia)
Import Licensing	Ms Carol TSANG (Hong Kong, China)

<b>Chairpersons of CTG Subsidiary Bodies</b>	
Rules of Origin	Ms Uma Shankari MUNIANDY (Singapore)
Customs Valuation	Mr Baroma Winega BAMANA (Togo)
State Trading Enterprises	Dr Kristian HENK (Austria)
Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products (ITA Committee)	Mr Kazunori FUKUDA (Japan)
Committee on Trade Facilitation (TFA Committee)	HE Mr Mohammad Qurban HAQJO (Afghanistan)

2.3. At the same meeting, the Council agreed to proceed on the understanding that, as concerned the Vice-Chairpersons, it would be for the subsidiary bodies to decide if they needed a Vice-Chairperson in cases where the option existed under the respective Agreement and/or rules of procedure, and for the respective Chairperson to hold the necessary consultations. In the absence of provisions in the rules of procedure of Working Parties to elect Chairpersons, the Council also agreed to appoint the nominated Chairperson, Dr Kristian HENK (Austria), for the Working Party on State Trading Enterprises.

### **3 MARKET ACCESS ISSUES**

#### **3.1 Collective Waiver Requests on the Introduction of the Harmonized System 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017**

3.1. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council considered four collective waiver requests on the introduction of Harmonized System 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017 changes into WTO Schedules of Concessions (see Section 4 below).

### **4 WAIVERS UNDER ARTICLE IX OF THE WTO AGREEMENT**

#### **4.1 Introduction of Harmonized System 2002 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions**

##### **4.1.1 Collective request for a waiver extension (G/C/W/768)**

4.1. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council considered a collective request for an extension of the waiver in connection with the introduction of HS2002 changes to the Schedules of Concessions. The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision contained in document G/C/W/768 be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

#### **4.2 Introduction of Harmonized System 2007 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions**

##### **4.2.1 Collective request for a waiver extension (G/C/W/769)**

4.2. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council considered a collective request for an extension of the waiver in connection with the introduction of HS2007 changes to the Schedules of Concessions. The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision contained in document G/C/W/769 be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

#### **4.3 Introduction of Harmonized System 2012 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions**

##### **4.3.1 Collective request for a waiver (G/C/W/770)**

4.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council considered a collective request for a waiver in connection with the introduction of HS2012 changes to the Schedules of Concessions. The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision contained in document G/C/W/770 be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

**4.4 Introduction of Harmonized System 2017 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions****4.4.1 Collective request for a waiver (G/C/W/771)**

4.4. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council considered a collective request for a waiver in connection with the introduction of HS2017 changes to the Schedules of Concessions. The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision contained in document G/C/W/771 be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

**4.5 Jordan – Request for a Waiver Relating to the Transitional Period for the Elimination of the Export Subsidy Programme for Jordan (G/C/W/705; G/C/W/705/Corr.1; G/C/W/705/Rev.1; and G/C/W/705/Rev.2)**

4.5. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by Jordan confirming that its export subsidy programme for exporting enterprises had been terminated on 21 December 2018 and replaced by a new income tax law, which was WTO-consistent. The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, appreciating the updates provided by Jordan on its transparency and reform efforts, and agreed that, since Jordan's export subsidy programme had been terminated, this item would not appear on the agenda of subsequent Council meetings.

**4.6 Chile, China, India, and Thailand – Request for the Extension of the Waiver for Preferential Tariff Treatment for Least Developed Countries (G/C/W/764)**

4.6. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council considered the request for the extension and draft decision to extend the validity of the existing waiver in document WT/L/759 for the granting of preferential tariff treatment to Least Developed Countries. The Council took note of the statements made by Chile, China, India, and Thailand, and of the statement made by Turkey supporting the request and indicating that Turkey should also be added to the list of co-sponsors. The Council also took note of the statements made by Chad on behalf of the LDC Group, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mali, Nepal, and Uruguay, in support of the request, and of the statement made by the European Union indicating that it also supported the request but needed to complete its internal procedures before the draft waiver request for extension could be forwarded to the General Council for adoption. The Council therefore agreed to send the draft decision to the General Council for adoption once the European Union had informed the Council, through the Secretariat, of the completion of its internal procedures.

4.7. In a communication dated 2 October 2019, the European Union informed the Secretariat that it had completed its internal procedures. Therefore, the draft waiver decision was forwarded to the General Council for adoption at its meeting on 15 October 2019.<sup>3</sup>

**4.7 United States - Request for a Waiver – Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA as Amended) (G/C/W/765)**

4.8. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council considered the request made by the United States to extend the current waiver concerning the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA as amended). The Council took note of the statement made by the United States and of the statements made by Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Group, Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of its own delegation. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union indicating that it also supported the request but needed to complete its internal procedures before the draft waiver request for extension could be forwarded to the General Council for adoption. The Council therefore agreed to send the draft decision to the General Council for adoption once the European Union had informed the Council, through the Secretariat, of the completion of its internal procedures.

---

<sup>3</sup> Document WT/L/1069.

4.9. In a communication dated 2 October 2019, the European Union informed the Secretariat that it had completed its internal procedures. Therefore, the draft waiver decision was forwarded to the General Council for adoption at its meeting on 15 October 2019.<sup>4</sup>

## **5 ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION: PROCEDURES UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:3 OF GATT 1994**

### **5.1 Enlargement of the European Union to Include Croatia: Negotiations under Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994 – Request from the Russian Federation**

5.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation on its concerns over the European Union's refusal to engage with it in the renegotiation process under GATT Article XXIV:6 following Croatia's accession to the EU. It also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to Russia's concern.

5.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council again took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation reiterating its concerns regarding the European Union's refusal to engage with it in the renegotiation process under GATT Article XXIV:6, following Croatia's accession to the EU. It also took note of the European Union's statement in response to Russia's concern.

5.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation reiterating its concerns regarding the European Union's refusal to engage with it in the renegotiation process under GATT Article XXIV:6, following Croatia's accession to the EU. It also took note of the European Union's statement in response to Russia's concern.

## **6 ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AND OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC TO THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION (EAEU): PROCEDURES UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:3 OF GATT 1994**

### **6.1 Accession of the Republic of Armenia and of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU): Procedures under Article XXVIII:3 of GATT 1994 – Request from the European Union**

6.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union on the progress that had been achieved in the tariff negotiations for non-agricultural products following Armenia and the Kyrgyz Republic's accession to the EAEU and expressing concerns over a lack of progress in the area of agriculture. The Council also took note of the statements made by China, the Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, and Ukraine, and of the responses provided by Armenia and the Kyrgyz Republic.

### **6.2 Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Eurasian Economic Union: Procedures under Article XXVIII:3 of GATT 1994 (G/L/1137/Add.4)**

6.2. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the information provided by the Kyrgyz Republic relating to its renegotiations under Article XXVIII:3 of GATT 1994 following its accession to the EAEU and considered the extension of the deadline set out in document G/L/1137/Add.4. The Council took note of the statements made by the European Union and the Russian Federation, and approved the requested extension until 12 February 2021.

### **6.3 Accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Eurasian Economic Union: Procedures under Article XXVIII:3 of GATT 1994 (G/L/1110/Add.5)**

6.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the information provided by the Republic of Armenia relating to its renegotiations under Article XXVIII:3 of GATT 1994, following its accession to the EAEU, and considered the extension of the deadline set out in document G/L/1110/Add.5. The Council took note of the statements made by Brazil, the European Union, the Russian Federation, and Chinese Taipei, and approved the requested extension until 2 January 2021.

---

<sup>4</sup> Document WT/L/1070.

**7 SWITZERLAND – LIECHTENSTEIN – NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:5 OF GATT 1994 (G/L/1262/ADD.1)**

7.1. At its meeting of 11 April, under agenda item "Other Business", Switzerland informed the Council that the date of 4 April 2019 was the date on which had expired the first extension of the period during which substantially equivalent concessions could be withdrawn by those Members having submitted a claim of interest following the modification of the tariff concessions for "meat not further prepared than seasoned" and that it had subsequently requested, in document G/L/1262/Add.1, dated 1 April 2019, a further 12-month extension of such period.

7.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statement made by Switzerland informing Members that negotiations and consultations pursuant to GATT Article XXVIII:5 were ongoing and of its request for the extension of the deadline for WTO Members to withdraw equivalent concessions under Article XXVIII:3 until 4 April 2020 contained in document G/L/1262/Add.1. The Council took note of the statement made by Switzerland and Liechtenstein and agreed to extend the deadline, as indicated in document G/L/1262/Add.1, until 4 April 2020.

**8 NOTIFICATION OF REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS**

8.1. At its meetings of 11 April, 8 July and 14 November, the Council was informed of the following notifications of regional trade agreements:

- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) (WT/REG395/N/1);
- Economic Partnership Agreement Between the European Union and Japan (WT/REG396/N/1);
- Free Trade Agreement between Hong Kong, China and Georgia (WT/REG397/N/1);
- Free Trade Agreement between the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and Israel (WT/REG398/N/1);
- Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (WT/REG399/N/1);
- Free Trade Agreement Between Turkey and Jordan (WT/REG294/N/2) – Notification of Termination;
- Free Trade Agreement Between China and Chile (WT/REG230/N/1/Add.1) – Notification of Changes;
- Free Trade Agreement Between Canada and Israel (WT/REG31/N/1/Add.1) – Notification of Changes.

8.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council also took note of the updates provided by Nigeria on the ECOWAS Customs Union and Common External Tariff (CET), which had entered into force on 1 January 2015, and that had been notified to the CRTA under Article XXIV of the GATT, indicating that, mindful of the provisions in GATT Articles XXIV:6 and XXVIII, ECOWAS members had made arrangements to start GATT Article XXVIII negotiations for the modification of WTO schedules of those ECOWAS members in violation of their tariff bound commitments. Nigeria informed the Council that Article XXVIII negotiations would be conducted by ECOWAS members as a group to align their WTO schedules to the ECOWAS CET.

8.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by Jordan indicating that the RTA with Turkey had been terminated to offset its negative impact on trade, but that a new trade and cooperation agreement had been signed by Jordan and Turkey aimed at achieving mutual interests in trade and other areas.

## **9 NOTIFICATIONS**

### **9.1 Status of Notifications under the Provisions of the Agreements in Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement (G/L/223/Rev.26)**

9.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the latest revision of the status of notifications contained in document G/L/223/Rev.26, and of the information provided by the Chair that, following informal consultations, Members had agreed that the Annual Report on Notifications should only contain information relative to particular provisions of Section I of the TFA (the so-called "transparency notifications") as these were the notification requirements that applied to all Members, including Article 1.4 (Publication and Availability of Information), Article 10.4.3 (Single Window), Article 10.6.2 (Customs Brokers), and Article 12.2.2 (Customs Cooperation).<sup>5</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia, China, the European Union, and Japan.

## **10 ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE FACILITATION (G/TFA/W/14)**

10.1. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council approved the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Trade Facilitation in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article IV of the Marrakesh Agreement.<sup>6</sup>

## **11 MEASURES TO ALLOW GRADUATED LDCS, WITH GNP BELOW US\$1,000, BENEFITS PURSUANT TO ANNEX VII(B) OF THE AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES (WT/GC/W/742 AND G/C/W/752)**

11.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by Chad on behalf of the LDC Group, asking Members to consider the proposal to allow graduated LDC Members to benefit from the exception provided under Article 27.2(a) of the SCM Agreement to developing countries listed in Annex VII(b), and informing Members that there were ongoing consultations on this issue in order to reach consensus.<sup>7</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Nepal, Senegal, and Turkey, in support of this request, and of the statements made by Canada, the European Union, and the United States, requesting further clarification and discussion of this issue, and of the closing statement made by Chad on behalf of the LDC Group.

11.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statement made by Chad, on behalf of the LDC Group, recalling the importance that the submission had for LDCs and for which the Group sought a decision by the General Council. The Council also took note of the statements made by Bangladesh, Canada, the European Union, India, Nepal, Turkey, and the United States, and of the closing statement made by Chad on behalf of the LDC Group.

11.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of the LDC Group. The Council also took note of the statements made by Brazil, Canada, the European Union, Senegal, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States.

## **12 EUROPEAN UNION – SAFEGUARD MEASURES ON INDICA RICE FROM CAMBODIA – REQUEST FROM CAMBODIA**

12.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of concerns raised by Cambodia over the introduction of EU Regulation 2019/67 withdrawing the duty-free quota-free (DFQF) access to the European Union's market under the EBA scheme for Cambodia's Indica rice through the imposition of a safeguard duty. The Council also took note of the statements made by China, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Thailand, and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

---

<sup>5</sup> See document G/L/223/Rev.26, Section 15, Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) (explanatory notes), paragraphs 15.1–15.5, and Annex 18.

<sup>6</sup> The adopted Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Trade Facilitation were circulated in document G/L/1343.

<sup>7</sup> This issue had already been raised by the Central African Republic, on behalf of the LDC Group, at the Council's meetings of 3 July and 12 November 2018.

### **13 EUROPEAN UNION – PROPOSED EU TARIFF RATE QUOTA COMMITMENTS: SYSTEMIC CONCERNS**

13.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statements made by Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Mexico, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, the United States, and Uruguay, expressing their systemic, commercial, and technical concerns regarding the tariff rate quota (TRQ) commitments of the European Union following the Brexit process.<sup>8</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, and Chinese Taipei. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

13.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council again took note of the statements made by Australia, Canada, China, New Zealand, and the United States, reiterating their concerns about the impact of the modifications to the EU and UK's WTO TRQs. The Council also took note of the statements made by Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, and Uruguay, and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

13.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statements made by Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, the United States, and Uruguay. The Council also took note of the statements made by Argentina, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, and Switzerland, and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

### **14 EUROPEAN UNION – REGULATION EC NO. 1272/2008 (CLP REGULATION) – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

14.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation expressing its concerns over the proposed update of the EU notification to the TBT Committee in December 2018, contained in document G/TBT/N/EU/629, to include titanium dioxide as a category 2 carcinogen and cobalt as a category 1b carcinogen, and which could potentially disrupt trade in a wide variety of products. The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia, Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, and the United States, echoing these concerns; and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

14.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation, supported by Canada, reiterating their concerns over the proposed update to the European Union CLP, notified to the TBT Committee in December 2018, to include titanium dioxide and cobalt, and the lack of transparency and scientific criteria for the classification of many chemicals as carcinogens. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

14.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation and the United States, supported by Australia and Mexico, reiterating their concerns over the proposed update to the European Union CLP to include titanium dioxide and cobalt, and the lack of transparency and scientific criteria for the classification of many chemicals as carcinogens. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

### **15 JAMAICA – REGULATIONS NOS. 145 AND 146 BANNING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

15.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by the Dominican Republic expressing its concerns over Jamaica's ban on single-use plastic notified to the TBT Committee given its trade restrictive impact, the discretion given to national authorities to regulate the domestic industry, and its compatibility with the TBT Agreement and GATT Articles III and XX. The Council also took note of the statements made by Guatemala and the United States, echoing the Dominican Republic's concerns; and of the statement made by Jamaica in response to these concerns.

---

<sup>8</sup> This concern had already been raised at the Council's meeting of 12 November 2018.

**16 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE BAN ON THE MARKETING AND IMPORTATION OF POLYSTYRENE PLASTICS – REQUEST FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

16.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by the Dominican Republic, supported by Guatemala and Honduras, expressing concerns regarding Trinidad and Tobago's import and marketing ban on polystyrene plastic, including glasses and food containers, dishes, cups, and other utensils, and particularly as to whether or not the same treatment would be provided to domestic and imported like products. The Council also took note of the statement made by Trinidad and Tobago in response to these concerns.

**17 EUROPEAN UNION – IMPLEMENTATION OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, CANADA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, JAMAICA, MALAYSIA, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, THE UNITED STATES, AND URUGUAY**

17.1. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statements made by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay, raising their concerns regarding the European Union's implementation of measures prohibiting the use of a number of agro-chemical substances required for safe and sustainable agriculture production, which disrupted trade in a number of products (e.g. cereals, nuts, bananas, cranberries, grapes, sweet potatoes, mangoes, among others), and which affected farmers, particularly in developing countries and LDCs. Members' concerns included the diversion from evidence and science-based standards by incorporating a hazard-based approach for the approval and renewal of plant production authorizations; the setting of import tolerances for active maximum residue levels (MRLs) below internationally recognized standards (by Codex, FAO, and other relevant bodies); and the lack of appropriate transitional periods for the implementation of the new MRLs in order for producers to identify and register alternative substances that would comply with the same level of protection in the EU market. The Council also took note of the statements made by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, China, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

17.2. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council again took note of the statements made by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay. The Council also took note of the statements made by Chile, El Salvador, India, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Senegal, and Sri Lanka; and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

**18 UNITED STATES - MEASURES REGARDING MARKET ACCESS PROHIBITION FOR ICT PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM CHINA**

18.1. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statement made by China regarding the US Executive Order on Securing the Information and Telecommunication Technology and Services Supply Chain, of 15 May 2019, banning US companies from buying or using telecommunications equipment provided by enterprises that were considered to pose a potential national security threat. The Council also took note of the statement made by United States in response to these concerns.

18.2. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by China reiterating its concern over the US Executive Order on Securing the Information and Telecommunication Technology and Services Supply Chain, which prohibited US companies from buying or using telecommunications equipment and services provided by enterprises deemed to pose national security threats. The Council also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to this concern.

**19 UNITED STATES – EXPORT CONTROL MEASURES FOR ICT PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM CHINA**

19.1. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statement made by China regarding the Chinese companies that had been placed onto the United States export control "Entity List" and its consistency with Articles I and XI of GATT 1994. The Council also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to these concerns.

19.2. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by China reiterating its concern over the Chinese companies that had been placed on the United States' export control "Entity List". The Council also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to these concerns.

**20 EUROPEAN UNION – MEDICAL DEVICE REGULATION AND IN VITRO DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL DEVICES REGULATION – REQUEST FROM THE UNITED STATES**

20.1. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statements made by the United States, supported by Canada and the Republic of Korea, expressing their concern over two new EU regulations that restricted patients' access to life saving and life improving medical technologies and devices, and which affected the market access conditions of those products on the EU market. Concerns also related to the insufficient number of testing facilities (Notified Bodies) to perform certification. The Council also took note of the statement made by European Union in response to these concerns.

20.2. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by the United States, supported by Canada, the Republic of Korea, and Mexico, reiterating their concern over the implementation of the two new EU regulations – Medical Device Regulation (MDR) and the In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation (IVDR). The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

**21 TUNISIA – IMPORT RESTRICTION MEASURES – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION**

21.1. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union and of the statement made by China, expressing their concern over Tunisia's new import authorization regime, which affected various products, including agricultural and agri-food products, textiles, clothing, cosmetics, leather products, shoes, toys, and electrical goods, representing roughly 4% of total EU exports to Tunisia. These measures, which also included quantitative restrictions, could be a de facto non-automatic import licence, which had not been announced prior to its entry into force, nor notified to the WTO. The Council also took note of the statement made by Tunisia providing its response to these concerns.

**22 ANGOLA – IMPORT RESTRICTING PRACTICES**

22.1. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statement made by the United States concerning Angola's Presidential Decree aimed at restricting imports of certain agricultural products in order to increase domestic economic development, which it had adopted in January 2019. Pursuant to this decree, Angola had introduced bans on the importation of pork, maize flour, and diapers. The Council also took note of the statements made by Brazil, Canada, the European Union, and the Russian Federation on this issue, and of the statement made by Angola providing its response to these concerns.

22.2. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation reiterating its concern over Angola's Presidential Decree No. 23/19 aimed at restricting a wide range of products, including pork meat, wheat flour, and poultry meat. The Council also took note of the statements made by Brazil, Canada, the European Union, and the United States. Angola was absent from the meeting.

**23 EUROPEAN UNION – REGULATION (EU) 2017/2321 AND REGULATION (EU) 2018/825 – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

23.1. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation over the EU Regulations 2017/2321 and 2018/825 concerning the use by the EU of trade remedy instruments in relation to the calculation of the "normal value" of products subject to AD investigations, and the right of the EU not to apply the "lesser duty rule" to remove the injury. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

**24 INDONESIA'S IMPORT AND EXPORT RESTRICTING POLICIES AND PRACTICES – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION, JAPAN, NORWAY, AND THE UNITED STATES**

24.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union, Japan, Norway, and the United States, and of the statements made by Brazil, China, Japan, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and Chinese Taipei, reiterating their concerns over Indonesia's import and export restricting policies and practices which, in their view, were protectionist in nature, legally uncertain, and unclear in implementation. Among the measures of particular concern were the following: the local content requirements in a number of sectors; complex and burdensome import requirements for a number of products, including for cosmetics, which were subjected to very high registration fees; burdensome and non-transparent SPS measures, QRs for meat, seafood, steel, and tyres; export restrictions for certain raw materials; and burdensome and discriminatory CPAs and increased technical standards as well as the "Halal" Law and its implementing regulations and procedures.<sup>9</sup> The Council also took note of the statement made by Indonesia in response to these concerns.

24.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union, Japan, and the United States, reiterating their concerns over the protectionist nature of Indonesia's trade policy, which included the following: local content requirements for meat and dairy products, horticultural products, and cosmetics (subject to high registration fees); QRs for meat, alcohol products, steel and tyres; export restrictions for raw materials; burdensome SPS measures; increased technical regulations and burdensome conformity assessment procedures (CAPs) on human and veterinarian pharmaceutical products, and the Halal law, as well as the decrees on maritime transport and insurance. The Council also took note of the statements made by New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, and Thailand; and of the statement made by Indonesia in response to these concerns.

24.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union, Japan, and the United States, relating to their ongoing concerns over various aspects of Indonesia's trade and investment regime, including in relation to import licensing requirements, unique technical regulations, pre-shipment inspection requirements, export restrictions, local content requirements, domestic manufacturing requirements, sales restrictions on 4G mobile phones, and a general lack of transparency, among others. The Council also took note of the statements made by New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, and Thailand; and of the statement made by Indonesia in response to these concerns.

**25 INDIA – CUSTOMS DUTIES ON ICT PRODUCTS**

25.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statements made by Canada, China, the European Union, Japan, Norway, Chinese Taipei, and the United States, reiterating their concerns expressed in this Council and the Market Access and ITA Committees, regarding India's introduction of import duties on a wide range of ICT products in excess of its WTO bound commitments and the lack of transparency with regard to the scope of the products covered by these increases.<sup>10</sup> The European Union also informed the Council that, in April 2019, it had requested consultations with India on this issue. The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, and Thailand; and of the statement made by India in response to these concerns.

---

<sup>9</sup> This issue has been on the CTG's agenda since its meeting of 22 June 2012.

<sup>10</sup> This issue had already been raised at the Council's meeting of 6 April 2017.

25.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statements made by Canada, China, Norway, Chinese Taipei, and the United States, regarding the imposition of customs duties on additional ICT products covered by ITA-1 in the context of India's budget proposal for 2018-2019. The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, and Thailand on this issue and of the information provided by Japan indicating that, on 10 May 2019, it had requested formal bilateral consultations with India under the DSB. The Council also took note of the statement made by India in response to these concerns.

25.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council again took note of the statements made by Australia, Canada, and the United States, reiterating their concern over the imposition of customs duties on a wide range of information and communication technology products. The Council also took note of the statements made by China, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, and Thailand; and of the statement made by India in response to these concerns.

## **26 EGYPT – MANUFACTURER REGISTRATION SYSTEM – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION**

26.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union, reiterating its concerns over Egypt's procedure for compulsory registration of foreign companies as the Ministerial Decrees No. 991/2015 and No. 43/2016 continued to create obstacles to trade, and with regard to Egypt's decision to extend the mandatory registration requirements to new products via Decree No. 44/2019.<sup>11</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Brazil, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, and Thailand; and of the statement made by Egypt in response to these concerns.

26.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union, reiterating its concerns raised already at the CTG and the TBT Committee, regarding Egypt's Decrees Nos. 991/2015, 43/2016, and 44/2019, which had introduced procedures relating to the compulsory registration of foreign companies and pre-shipment inspections, and Egypt's decision to extend the mandatory registration requirements to new product categories. The Council also took note of the statements made by Brazil and the Russian Federation; and of the statement made by Egypt in response to these concerns.

26.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union and the Russian Federation on Egypt's manufacturer registration system. The Council also took note of the statements made by Brazil, the Republic of Korea, and Turkey; and of the statement made by India in response to these concerns.

## **27 CROATIA – REGULATION OF IMPORT AND SALE OF CERTAIN OIL PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

27.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation reiterating its concerns in relation to Croatia's discriminatory policies against certain imported oil products from the Russian Federation, as well as its requirements for minimum volume of containers and some requirements for wholesale trade in certain oil products applicable to all imports except those from EU member States or members of the European Economic Area and Turkey. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to this concern.

27.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation reiterating its concerns over Croatia's regulation on import and sale of certain oil products that had established a minimum volume of containers and some requirements for wholesale trade in certain oil products, applicable to all imports except those from EU member States or members

---

<sup>11</sup> This issue had already raised by the European Union and the United States at the Council's meeting of 6 April 2017.

of the European Economic Area and Turkey.<sup>12</sup> The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to this concern.

## **28 RUSSIAN FEDERATION – TRADE RESTRICTING PRACTICES – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION**

28.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union and the United States on the GOST standard on cement certification; the "good manufacturing practice (GMP)" certificates for pharmaceutical products; the ban on exports of skins and hides; the updated list of goods that could be subject to export bans, including fishery products from Estonia and Latvia; and the wine taxation regime.<sup>13</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Sri Lanka, Ukraine, and the United States; and of the statement made by the Russian Federation in response to these concerns.

28.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union, supported by Ukraine and the United States, reiterating their concerns over the Russian Federation's certification requirements, in particular with regard to the good manufacturing practices (GMP) for pharmaceutical products; cement certification; the SPS ban on fishery products from Estonia; the wine taxation regime; "temporary" export bans on raw hides and skins and export of birch logs; and restrictions on importing/foreign companies to Russian State-Owned Enterprises' purchases.

28.3. At the same meeting, the Council also took note of the statement of Ukraine expressing concerns over a new Regulation adopted by the Russian Federation prohibiting the importation of a number of agricultural and industrial goods such as paper, cardboard, clothing, wire, pipe products, machinery, of Ukrainian origin, or if such goods had transited through the territory of Ukraine. The Council also took note of the statement made by the United States; and of the statement made by the Russian Federation in response to these concerns.

28.4. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union and the United States with regard to the above-mentioned concerns. The Council also took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation in response to these concerns.

## **29 KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND OMAN – SELECTIVE TAX ON CERTAIN IMPORTED PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION, SWITZERLAND, AND THE UNITED STATES**

29.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union, Switzerland, and the United States concerning the GCC Council of Ministers' "Treaty on Excise Tax", adopted in December 2016, relating to a 100% *ad valorem* excise duty on energy drinks and a 50% *ad valorem* duty on other carbonated drinks.<sup>14</sup> The Council also took note of the statement made by Japan; and of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on its own behalf and on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, in response to these concerns.

29.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union, Switzerland, and the United States, reiterating their concerns over the discriminatory impact of the GCC selective tax providing for a 100% *ad valorem* excise duty on energy drinks, and a 50% *ad valorem* duty on other carbonated drinks, and of Oman's implementation, as of 15 June 2019, of a selective tax on certain products without publishing the implementing legislation. Note was also taken of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's selective tax reforms, which had been expanded to cover e-cigarette and e-cigarette products, and fizzy drinks, as well as of the expected replacement of the *ad valorem* tax by a volume-based tax. The Council also took note of the statement made by the Kingdom of Bahrain, on its own behalf and on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman, in response to these concerns.

29.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union, Switzerland, and the United States, supported by Japan, reiterating their concerns over the

---

<sup>12</sup> This issue had already been raised by the Russian Federation at the Council's meetings of 17 November 2016, 6 April 2017, and 3 July 2018.

<sup>13</sup> This issue had already been raised by the European Union at the Council's meetings of 15 April 2016, 6 April, 30 June, and 10 November 2017, and 23 March, 3 July, and 12 November 2018.

<sup>14</sup> This issue had already been raised at the meetings of 3 July and 12 November 2018.

GCC Council of Ministers' "Treaty on Excise Tax", adopted in December 2016. The Council also took note of the statement made by the Kingdom of Bahrain on its own behalf, and on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Oman, in response to these concerns.

### **30 CHINA – NEW EXPORT CONTROL LAW IN DRAFT– REQUEST FROM JAPAN**

30.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by Japan reiterating its concerns on the Chinese draft export control law intended to consolidate various existing export control provisions in a single draft.<sup>15</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by the European Union and the Republic of Korea; and of the statement made by China in response to these concerns.

30.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statements made by Japan reiterating its concerns over the Chinese draft export control law that was intended to consolidate various existing export control provisions into a single law, including overly stringent export regulations, and their compatibility with GATT Article XI on quantitative restrictions. The Council also took note of the statements made by the European Union and the Republic of Korea; and of the statement made by China in response to these concerns.

30.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by Japan reiterating its concerns over China's export control law, regarding the scope of products subject to export control regulations and requesting information on the National Development and Reform Commission's export control mechanism, which was currently being prepared. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union, and of the statement made by China in response to these concerns.

### **31 VIET NAM – DECREE ON THE REGULATION ON CONDITIONS FOR AUTOMOBILES MANUFACTURING, ASSEMBLING, IMPORTING, AND AUTOMOTIVE WARRANTY AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

31.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by the United States reiterating its concerns over Viet Nam's Decree No. 116 and Circular No. 3, which established testing procedures and submission of a quality certificate issued by foreign authorities for the importation of automobiles into Viet Nam.<sup>16</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by the European Union, the Russian Federation, and Thailand; and of the statement made by Viet Nam in response to these concerns.

31.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statements made by the Russian Federation and the United States, over Viet Nam's Decree No. 116/2018 establishing the submission of a quality certificate issued by foreign authorities for the importation of automobiles into Viet Nam. The Council also took note of the statements made by the European Union and Mexico; and of the statement made by Viet Nam in response to these concerns.

31.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council again took note of the statements made by the Russian Federation and the United States concerning Viet Nam's Decree No. 116/2018; and of the statements made by the European Union and Thailand. The Council also took note of Viet Nam's response to these concerns.

### **32 MONGOLIA – QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS ON IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

32.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation concerning Mongolia's quantitative restrictions and prohibitions on the importation of certain agricultural products, including flour and milk, and their subsequent import prohibition.<sup>17</sup> The Council also took note of the statement made by Canada; and of the statement by Mongolia in response to these concerns.

---

<sup>15</sup> This issue had already been raised at the meetings of 23 March, 3 July, and 12 November 2018.

<sup>16</sup> This issue had already been raised at the meetings of 23 March, 3 July, and 12 November 2018.

<sup>17</sup> This issue had already been raised at the meetings of 23 March, 3 July, and 12 November 2018.

32.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council again took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation reiterating its concerns on the quantitative restrictions and prohibitions on the importation of certain agricultural products, including flour and milk, and their subsequent import prohibition. Russia also asked for a clarification of the rationale behind the use of a quantitative quotas regime to ensure that imported food products contained iron, zinc, and vitamins B or D. The Council also took note of the statement made by Mongolia in response to these concerns.

32.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation, concerning the quantitative restrictions and prohibitions on the importation of certain agricultural products applied by Mongolia. The Council also took note of the response provided by Mongolia.

### **33 INDIA – QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTION ON IMPORTS OF CERTAIN PULSES – REQUEST FROM AUSTRALIA, CANADA, THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND THE UNITED STATES**

33.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statements made by Australia, Canada, the European Union, the Russian Federation, and the United States, reiterating their concerns over India's quantitative restrictions on imports of pulses and the new measures announced by India on 29 March 2019 to impose these restrictions for an additional year, commencing 1 April 2019.<sup>18</sup> The Council also took note of the statement made by Ukraine; and of the statement made by India in response to these concerns.

33.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statements made by Australia, Canada, the European Union, the Russian Federation, and the United States, reiterating their concerns over India's restrictions on imports of pulses which, in March 2019, had been extended for an additional year. The Council also took note of the statements made by New Zealand and Ukraine; and of the statement made by India in response to these concerns.

33.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statements made by Australia, Canada, the European Union, the Russian Federation, and the United States, on the quantitative restrictions imposed by India on the import of beans, yellow peas, chickpeas, and other pulses. The Council also took note of the statements made by New Zealand and Ukraine; and of the statement made by India in response to these concerns.

### **34 CHINA – CUSTOMS DUTIES ON CERTAIN INTEGRATED CIRCUITS – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION, JAPAN, AND CHINESE TAIPEI**

34.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union, Japan, and Chinese Taipei, reiterating their concerns over a change in China's applied duty rates for semiconductor products and the calculation it had used for the HS transposition of tariffs on multi-component semi-conductors (MCOs) and the use of two different averages when implementing their reclassification under HS2017.<sup>19</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, and the United States; and of the statement made by China in response to these concerns.

34.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council again took note of the statements made by the European Union, Japan, and Chinese Taipei, regarding China's application of tariffs which were higher than the bound levels contained in China's Schedule of Concessions, particularly regarding its applied rate for the IGBT-IPM (semi-conductor products). The Council also took note of the statements made by Switzerland and the United States; and of the statement made by China in response to these concerns.

34.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council again took note of the statements made by the European Union, Japan, and Chinese Taipei, relating to the customs duties imposed by China on certain integrated circuits. The Council also took note of the statements made by the Republic of

---

<sup>18</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 23 March, 3 July, and 12 November 2018.

<sup>19</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 10 November 2017, and 23 March, 3 July and 12 November 2018.

Korea, Switzerland, and the United States; and of the statement made by China in response to these concerns.

### **35 CHINA – MEASURES RESTRICTING THE IMPORT OF SCRAP MATERIALS – REQUEST FROM THE UNITED STATES**

35.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by the United States concerning China's measures, notified to the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), banning or limiting the import of scrap materials, including paper, plastics, and ferrous and non-ferrous scrap and wires.<sup>20</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia, Canada, the Dominican Republic, the European Union, the Republic of Korea, and New Zealand; and of the statement made by China in response to this concern.

35.2. At its meeting on 8 July, the Council again took note of the statement made by the United States reiterating its concerns over China's measures notified to the TBT Committee, banning or limiting the import of scrap material since July 2018. The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia, Canada, the Dominican Republic, the European Union, and New Zealand; and of the statement made by China in response to this concern.

35.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the United States reiterating its concerns over China's ban on imports of scrap materials and the revision of the draft law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Wastes of 5 July 2019. The Council also took note of the statements made by Canada, the European Union, and New Zealand; and of the statement made by China in response to these concerns.

### **36 EUROPEAN UNION – AMENDMENTS TO THE DIRECTIVE 2009/28/EC, RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE (RED) – REQUEST FROM COLOMBIA AND MALAYSIA**

36.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statements made by Colombia and Malaysia about the discriminatory treatment provided to biofuels and bio-liquids from palm oil in the amendments proposed to the RED, which would not be counted towards the EU's renewable energy targets from 2030.<sup>21</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, and Thailand; and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

36.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council again took note of the statements made by Colombia and Malaysia reiterating their concerns over the discriminatory treatment provided to biofuels and bio-liquids from palm oil in the amendments proposed to the RED being discussed in Brussels. The Council also took note of the statements made by Ecuador, Guatemala, and Honduras; and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

36.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council again took note of the statements made by Colombia and Malaysia over the development of the Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and the EU Council Directive of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/807 of 13 March 2019. The Council also took note of the statements made by Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Indonesia; and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

### **37 UNITED STATES – PROHIBITIVE PROPOSAL ON COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES RELEASED BY THE FCC – REQUEST FROM CHINA**

37.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council again took note of the statement made by China on an announcement made by the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) prohibiting the use of the Universal Service Fund to purchase equipment or services from any communications equipment or service providers identified as posing a national security risk to the United States communications

---

<sup>20</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 23 March, 3 July, and 12 November 2018.

<sup>21</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 23 March (under agenda item "Other Business"), 3 July, and 12 November 2018.

networks or the US communications supply chain.<sup>22</sup> The Council also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to this concern.

37.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council again took note of the statement made by China on the above-mentioned announcement made by the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) prohibiting the use of the Universal Service Fund to purchase equipment or services from any communications equipment or service providers identified as posing a national security risk to the United States communications networks or the US communications supply chain. The Council also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to this concern.

37.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by China on this issue; and of the statement made by the United States in response to this concern.

### **38 UNITED STATES – MEASURES ON AVIATION SECURITY EQUIPMENT – REQUEST FROM CHINA**

38.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council again took note of the statement made by China about the conformity assessment procedures (CAPs) conducted by the Transportation Security Administration of the United States (TAS), which were not in compliance with the national treatment principle as CAPs to aviation security equipment of Chinese origin were not accepted or delayed.<sup>23</sup> The Council also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to this concern.

38.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council again took note of the statement made by China regarding the refusal by the US Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) of applications by Chinese enterprises for TSA certification, and the US failure to notify any WTO body, including the TBT Committee, on the TSA Certification requirements. The Council also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to this concern.

38.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by China on this issue; and of the statement made by the United States in response to this concern.

### **39 EUROPEAN UNION – QUALITY SCHEMES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FOODSTUFFS – THE REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN TERMS OF CHEESE AS GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS – REQUEST FROM ARGENTINA, THE UNITED STATES, AND URUGUAY**

39.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council again took note of the statements made by Argentina, the United States, and Uruguay, reiterating their concerns over the registration by the European Union, without notification, of the term "Danbo" as a Geographical Indication (GI), without considering the existence of Codex Standard 264 of 1996; and of the use of the term "Havarti", on which there also existed a Codex Standard.<sup>24</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia and New Zealand; and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

39.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council again took note of the statements made by Argentina, the United States, and Uruguay, reiterating their concerns over the registration by the European Union of the terms "Danbo" and "Havarti" as GIs, disregarding the fact that these are generic terms according to the Codex Alimentarius and by the lack of transparency in the EU registration process. The Council also took note of the statement made by Australia; and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

39.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council again took note of the statements made by Argentina, the United States, and Uruguay, reiterating their concerns over the registration by the European Union of the term "Danbo" as a GI. The Council also took note of the statement made by New Zealand; and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

---

<sup>22</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 3 July and 12 November 2018.

<sup>23</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 23 March (under Agenda item "Other Business"), 3 July, and 12 November 2018.

<sup>24</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 3 July and 12 November 2018.

**40 EUROPEAN UNION – DRAFT IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS REGARDING PROTECTED DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS, TRADITIONAL TERMS, LABELLING AND PRESENTATION OF CERTAIN WINE SECTOR PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED STATES**

40.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statements made by Argentina and the United States in relation to concerns already expressed at the TBT Committee over the EU's revision to the draft implementing regulations regarding protected designation of origin and geographical indications, traditional terms, labelling and presentation of certain wine sector products and concerns regarding Regulation Nos. 607/2009 (which had been repealed by EU Regulation No. 2019/33), and 479/2008, which have been raised for more than ten years. The Council also took note of the response provided by the European Union.

40.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statements made by the United States, reiterating its concerns over the EU's regulations regarding protected designation of origin and geographical indications (GIs) and traditional terms for wine, and specifically, the United States' pending applications for traditional terms.<sup>25</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Argentina, Brazil, and New Zealand; and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

40.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statements made by the United States, supported by Argentina and New Zealand, in relation to their concerns over the EU's regulations regarding protected designation of origin and geographical indications (GIs) and traditional terms for wine. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

**41 AUSTRALIA – DISCRIMINATORY MARKET ACCESS PROHIBITION ON 5G EQUIPMENT – REQUEST FROM CHINA**

41.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by China concerning the prohibition to participate in 5G projects imposed by Australia on two Chinese companies. The Council also took note of the statement made by Australia in response to this concern.

41.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statement made by China reiterating its concerns over Australia's prohibition of Chinese equipment from Australian 5G projects and the lack of clarity regarding the information provided by Australia on its Telecommunication Sector Security Reform (TCSSR). The Council also took note of the statement made by Australia in response to this concern.

41.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by China concerning the prohibition to participate in 5G projects imposed by Australia on two Chinese companies. The Council also took note of the statement made by Australia in response to this concern.

**42 JAPAN – EXPORT CONTROL MEASURES ON MATERIALS ESSENTIAL FOR SEMICONDUCTORS AND DISPLAYS**

42.1. At its meeting of 9 July, under agenda item "Other Business", the Council took note of the statement made by the Republic of Korea expressing concerns over Japan's recent export control measures on materials essential to the production of semiconductors and displays towards Korea. The Council also took note of the statement made by Japan in response to these concerns.

---

<sup>25</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 23 March, 3 July, and 12 November 2018.

## **43 TRANSPARENCY AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER WTO AGREEMENTS**

### **43.1 Communication from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, and the United States (JOB/GC/204/Rev.1–JOB/CTG/14/Rev.1 – JOB/GC/204/Rev.2–JOB/CTG/14/Rev.2)**

43.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council considered document JOB/GC/204/Rev.1–JOB/CTG/14/Rev.1, containing a revised draft decision for the General Council's consideration on procedures to enhance transparency and strengthen notification requirements under the WTO Agreements<sup>26</sup>, and took note of the statements made by Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, and the United States, introducing the revised version and explaining the main aspects of their submission, the changes that had been introduced following comments and suggestions made by other delegations at the previous CTG meeting, and in consultations that had taken place following that meeting. The Council also took note of the statements made by the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Brazil; Chad; Chile; Colombia; Cuba; Djibouti; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Guatemala; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Jamaica; the Republic of Korea; Mexico; Nigeria; Norway; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; the Russian Federation; Senegal; Singapore; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Switzerland; Thailand; Turkey; Ukraine; and Uruguay; and of the responses to these statements provided by Argentina, Australia, the European Union, Chinese Taipei, and the United States. All Members that intervened continued to highlight the importance of transparency as a fundamental pillar of the WTO. Although some considered the proposal to be a good basis for discussion, others remained concerned about various of its aspects.

43.2. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council considered document JOB/GC/204/Rev.2–JOB/CTG/14/Rev.2, containing a revised draft decision for the General Council's consideration on procedures to enhance transparency and strengthen notification requirements under the WTO Agreements, and took note of the statements made by Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, Chinese Taipei, and the United States, introducing the second revision and explaining the main aspects of their submission, the changes that had been introduced following comments and suggestions made by other delegations at the previous CTG meeting, and in consultations that had taken place following that meeting. The Council also took note of the statements made by Bangladesh; Brazil; Chad; Chile; China; Egypt; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Israel; the Republic of Korea; Mexico; Nigeria; Norway; Panama; Paraguay; the Russian Federation; Saint Lucia; Singapore; South Africa; Switzerland; Thailand; Turkey; Ukraine; and Uruguay; and of the responses to these statements provided by Australia and the European Union.

43.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the United States, on behalf of the co-sponsors of the transparency proposal, updating delegations on their efforts to have one-on-one Member consultations in order to craft a proposal balancing incentives with administrative measures while acknowledging that some Members faced specific challenges. The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Ecuador, India, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Paraguay, Singapore, Switzerland, Ukraine, and Uruguay.

### **43.2 An Inclusive Approach to Transparency and Notification Requirements in the WTO – Communication from Cuba, India, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe (JOB/GC/218, JOB/CTG/15, JOB/SERV/292, JOB/IP/33, JOB/DEV/58, JOB/AG/158)**

43.4. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council considered document JOB/CTG/15, and took note of the statements made by India, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe, introducing the document and indicating that their submission recognized that developing countries faced challenges

---

<sup>26</sup> This issue had already been raised by the United States at the Council's meeting of 10 November 2017. At the Council's meeting of 23 March 2018, the United States had submitted a revised version of the proposal (JOB/GC/148/Rev.1–JOB/CTG/10/Rev.1). At the Council's 12 November 2018 meeting, various delegations co-sponsored a joint proposal to enhance transparency (JOB/GC/204–JOB/CTG/14 and JOB/GC/204/Add.1–JOB/CTG/14/Add.1).

in meeting their transparency obligations due to limited capacities and resources.<sup>27</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia, Canada, Chad, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, the United States, and Uruguay. The Council also took note of the statements made by India and South Africa in response to some of the comments made on their proposal.

#### **44 WORK PROGRAMME ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE**

44.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Chairperson recalled that Ministers in Buenos Aires had adopted the decision contained in document WT/MIN(17)/65<sup>28</sup> on the "Work Programme on Electronic Commerce" (Work Programme, or WPEC). In that Decision, Ministers had agreed to continue the work under the existing Work Programme since their last session, based on the existing mandate as set out in document WT/L/274, adopted on 25 September 1998, and endeavour to reinvigorate the work of the WTO on electronic commerce (E-Commerce). To this end, the Decision had also instructed the General Council to hold periodic reviews in its sessions of July and December 2018, and July 2019, based on the reports submitted by the relevant bodies, among them the Goods Council; and to maintain the current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions. To fulfil the renewed mandate, the E-Commerce issue had been included as a stand-alone agenda item and, in this vein, the Chairperson invited delegations to continue to express their opinions and to make suggestions as to how to work on the preparation of the periodic review to be held in the General Council at its session of July 2019.

44.2. At the same meeting, the Council took note of the statement made by Chad, on behalf of the LDC Group, expressing their interest in exploring and benefitting from the opportunities presented by E-Commerce, identifying some issues that they considered should be part of the Work Programme on E-Commerce, and indicating that the Group intended to hold a dedicated internal workshop on these issues.

44.3. At its meeting of 8 July, the Council took note of the statement made by China sharing several case examples on E-Commerce that illustrated how E-Commerce could help to promote industrial development and international trade in goods. The Council also took note of the statement made by Mali on the potential advantages and benefits of E-Commerce and requesting the implementation of the Doha and Hong Kong Ministerial Declarations before engaging in E-Commerce negotiations.

44.4. Considering that MC12 would now take place in June 2020, and not in December 2019, the Council agreed that the Chairperson also submit to the General Council's meeting in December 2019 a factual report of the discussions that had taken place at the CTG level.

44.5. At its meeting of 14 November, the Chairperson recalled the mandate contained in document WT/L/1032, adopted by Ministers at the Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, in December 2017, and reminded delegations that, as agreed at the July meeting, he would submit, under his own responsibility, a factual report to the General Council meeting of December 2019 based on the discussions held in the Goods Council in November 2019. There were no interventions on this issue.

#### **45 BETTER FUNCTIONING OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS AND SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEES – STATEMENT BY HONG KONG, CHINA**

45.1. At its meeting of 11 April, the Council took note of the statement made by Hong Kong, China encouraging Members to work together to develop ideas relating to the better functioning of the CTG and its subsidiary bodies in a fast-evolving trading environment. The Council also took note of the statements made by Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the European Union, Guatemala, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Paraguay, Singapore, Switzerland, and the United States.

45.2. At its meeting of 9 July, the Council took note of the statement made by Hong Kong, China recalling that it had requested the inclusion of this agenda item at the previous and at this meeting,

<sup>27</sup> After the airgram had been issued, the African Group, Mauritius, and Oman, had requested to be included as co-sponsors of this communication (see documents JOB/CTG/15/Rev.1 and JOB/CTG/15/Rev.2).

<sup>28</sup> See document WT/L/1032.

as a platform to focus attention on small steps to improve the functioning of the CTG and its subsidiary bodies, such as an annotated agenda and a year plan for meetings. The Council also took note of the statements made by Argentina, Australia, Canada, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United States.

45.3. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the statement made by Hong Kong, China introducing a mock annotated agenda and a mock of a tentative annual plan of meetings of the CTG and its subsidiary bodies. The Council also took note of the statements made by Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, the European Union, Honduras, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Paraguay, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, and the United States.

#### **46 CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS**

46.1. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council took note of the annual reports of its subsidiary bodies.<sup>29</sup> The Annual Reports of the Committees on Subsidies and Countervailing Duties, Anti-Dumping Practices, Safeguards and Technical Barriers to Trade would be submitted directly to the General Council at its December 2019 meeting.

#### **47 ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

47.1. At its meeting of 14 November, the Council adopted its Annual Report (2019) to the General Council.

#### **48 OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **48.1 Optimization of the CTG's Work in Line with the Practice of the General Council**

48.1. At its meeting of 9 July, the Council took note of the question posed to delegations by the Chairperson about the appropriateness of optimizing the Council's meetings and use of its time to put it in line with the practice by the General Council to limit speakers' interventions to a maximum of five minutes per delegation. The Council also took note of the statements made by India, South Africa, and the United States.

---

<sup>29</sup> Agriculture (G/L/1332); TRIMs (G/L/1337 and G/TRIMS/9); Market Access (G/L/1338); Import Licensing (G/L/1328); Customs Valuation (G/L/1333); Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (G/L/1336); ITA (G/L/1334); Pre-shipment Inspection and Independent Entity (G/L/1330); Rules of Origin (G/L/1331); Trade Facilitation (G/L/1329); and Working Party on State Trading Enterprises (G/L/1335 and G/STR/23).