



## REPORT (2020) 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 2019 Annual Report (G/L/1343 and G/L/1343/Add.1) was issued, the CTG met two times in formal session, via Interpretary, on the following dates: 10 and 11 June 2020 (G/C/M/137); and 25 and 26 November 2020 (G/C/M/138<sup>1</sup>). Furthermore, the CTG met two times in informal mode, on 5 February and on 27 July 2020, respectively, to discuss the issue of the Better Functioning of the CTG and its Subsidiary Bodies and to consider the slate of names for the appointment of Chairpersons of the CTG's subsidiary bodies.

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

1.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council elected by acclamation HE Mr Mikael Anzén (Sweden) as its Chairperson for 2020-2021.

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

2.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council agreed to suspend this agenda item in order for the outgoing CTG Chair to hold additional consultations on this issue because of the formal objection by one delegation to the proposed slate of names; 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. At its meeting of 27 July<sup>2</sup> conducted by the former CTG Chair at the request of Ambassador Anzén, the Council reverted to this agenda item and, following an informal meeting at which the Chairperson submitted to the Council the revised slate of names that had emerged as a result of his consultations, agreed on the nominations of the following persons for election as Chairpersons of its subsidiary bodies for 2020:

| CTG Subsidiary Body  | Chairperson                             |
|--|---|
| Committee on Market Access   | Mr Anatoly CHAPLIN (Russian Federation) |
| Committee on Agriculture   | Ms Maria ESCANDOR (Philippines)         |
| Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures                                       | Mr Gregory MACDONALD (Canada)           |
| Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade   | Mr Laurence SANDRAL (Australia)         |
| Committee on TRIMs   | Mr Manuel CHACÓN (Colombia)             |
| Committee on Anti-dumping Practices  | Ms Maarit KEITANEN (Finland)            |
| Committee on Customs Valuation   | Mr Carlos GUEVARA (Ecuador)             |
| Committee on Rules of Origin   | Mr Han-Ming HUANG (Chinese Taipei)      |
| Committee on Import Licensing  | Dr Muhammad IRFAN (Pakistan)            |
| Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures                                     | Ms Sungyo CHOI (Republic of Korea)      |
| Committee on Safeguards  | Mr Mustafa TUZCU (Turkey)               |
| Working Party on State Trading Enterprises   | Ms Johana MÉNDEZ (Panama)               |
| Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products | Ms Uma MUNIANDY (Singapore)             |
| Committee on Trade Facilitation  | HE Ms Katrina NAUT (Dominican Republic) |

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, Ms Johana MÉNDEZ (Panama), for the Working Party on State Trading Enterprises. The Working Group would also proceed to appoint a Vice-Chair, as had been agreed by the Council in November 2019.

<sup>2</sup> See document G/C/M/137/Add.1.

### **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 25 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: Collective request for a waiver extension (G/C/W/782)**

4.1. At its meeting of 25 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/782 be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

#### **4.2 Introduction of Harmonized System 2007 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions: Collective request for a waiver extension (G/C/W/783)**

4.2. At its meeting of 25 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/783 be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

#### **4.3 Introduction of Harmonized System 2012 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions: Collective request for a waiver (G/C/W/784)**

4.3. At its meeting of 25 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/784 be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

#### **4.4 Introduction of Harmonized System 2017 Changes into WTO Schedules of Tariff Concessions: Collective request for a waiver (G/C/W/785)**

4.4. At its meeting of 25 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/785 be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

### **5 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**

#### **5.1 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**

5.1. At its meeting of 10 June, 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.<sup>3</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Brazil, China, and the Russian Federation, and of the responses provided by Armenia and the Kyrgyz Republic.

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<sup>3</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meeting of 11 April 2019.

## **5.2 Accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Eurasian Economic Union: Procedures under Article XXVIII:3 of GATT 1994 (G/L/1110/Add.6)**

5.2. At its meeting of 25 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.6. The Council took note of the statement made by the European Union and approved the requested extension until 2 January 2022.

## **5.3 Accession of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Eurasian Economic Union: Procedures under Article XXVIII:3 of GATT 1994 (G/L/1137/Add.5)**

5.3. At its meeting of 25 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.5. The Council took note of the statement made by the European Union and approved the requested extension until 12 February 2022.

## **6 NOTIFICATION OF REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS**

6.1. At its meetings of 10 June and 25 November, the Council was informed of the following notifications of regional trade agreements:

- Free Trade Agreement between the Philippines and the EFTA States, Goods (WT/REG394/N/2)
- Free Trade Agreement between Hong Kong, China and Australia, Goods (WT/REG400/N/1)
- Interim Agreement between the EAEU and Iran, Goods (WT/REG401/N/1)
- Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Singapore, Goods (WT/REG402/N/1)
- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Chile and Indonesia, Goods (WT/REG403/N/1)
- Free Trade Agreement between Peru and Australia, Goods (WT/REG404/N/1)
- Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Viet Nam, Goods (WT/REG406/N/1)
- United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA/CUSMA/T-MEC), Goods (WT/REG407/N/1)
- Accession of Samoa and Solomon Islands to the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Pacific States, Goods (WT/REG408/N/1 - WT/REG409/N/1)

6.2. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation regarding the entry into force of the Interim Agreement leading to the formation of a free trade area between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and its member States on the one hand, and Iran, on the other.

## **7 NOTIFICATIONS**

### **7.1 Status of Notifications under the Provisions of the Agreements in Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement (G/L/223/Rev.27)**

7.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of document G/L/223/Rev.27, informing Members about the status of notifications under the provisions of the Agreements in Annex IA of the WTO Agreement.

## **8 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-G/C/W/752)**

8.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council again took note of the statement made by Burkina Faso, speaking on behalf of 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).<sup>4</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Nepal, Turkey, in support of this request, and of the statements made by the European Union and the United States, requesting further clarifications of this issue.

8.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the statement made by Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the LDC Members, regarding 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). The Council also took note of the statements made by Botswana, on behalf of the African Group, the European Union, India, Turkey, and the United States.

## **9 COVID-19: MEASURES RELATED TO TRADE IN GOODS (G/C/W/780; G/C/W/788)**

9.1. At the meeting of 10 June, the Council considered document G/C/W/780, containing a communication on measures related to trade in goods taken in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and took note of the proposal submitted by Canada; Colombia; Costa Rica; Hong Kong, China; New Zealand; Norway; Singapore; Switzerland; and Uruguay, that, in order to strengthen transparency and provide a formal platform for Members to discuss the emergency measures and initiatives adopted by Members to face the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, a dedicated section be included in the CTG agenda on this topic in the following months, and as long as the pandemic would last, given the key role played by the Goods Council in monitoring the overall implementation of measures in a systemic manner, and in promoting good practices and initiatives. The Council also took note of statements made by Australia; Botswana, on behalf of the African Group; Burkina Faso, on behalf of Chad and the LDC Group; Ecuador; the European Union; India; Indonesia; Japan; Mexico; Namibia; Nigeria; the Republic of Korea; Paraguay; the Russian Federation; South Africa; Sri Lanka; Chinese Taipei; the United Kingdom; and the United States; and of the responses to these statements provided by Canada and Hong Kong, China.

9.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council considered document G/C/W/788, submitted by Canada; Colombia; Costa Rica; Hong Kong, China; New Zealand; Norway; Singapore; and Switzerland indicating that the CTG should be a platform for Members to discuss trade-related measures taken in the context of the COVID-19 crisis in a systematic manner, and took note of the statements made by the above-mentioned co-sponsors. The Council also took note of a presentation made by the Secretariat at the request of the co-sponsors and of the statements made by Australia, Botswana, on behalf of the African Group, Chile, China, Ecuador, the European Union, Indonesia, Nigeria, Paraguay, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Uruguay.

## **10 PROPOSAL FOR AN AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRETATION OF THE ENABLING CLAUSE TO PROVIDE GREATER LEGAL CERTAINTY TO NON-RECIPROCAL PREFERENCES GRANTED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRY WTO MEMBERS TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES – REQUEST FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (G/C/W/775)**

10.1. At the meeting of 10 June, the Council considered document G/C/W/775 containing a proposal for an authoritative interpretation of the Enabling Clause under Article IX:3 of the Marrakesh Agreement, and took note of the Republic of Korea's statement explaining the aim of the proposal to provide greater legal certainty to non-reciprocal preferences granted by developing country WTO Members to LDCs. It also took note of the statements made by Bangladesh; Burkina Faso, on behalf of Chad and the LDC Group; China; India; South Africa; and Turkey.

10.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the Republic of Korea thanking Members for the constructive discussions since the last meeting and noting that

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<sup>4</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, and by Chad, on behalf of the LDC Group, at the Council's meetings of 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

it would present its proposal to the General Council. It also took note of the statements made by Afghanistan, on behalf of the LDC Group, Bangladesh, Botswana, on behalf of the African Group, Brazil, China, India, and Turkey.

## **11 CHINA – IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE DISRUPTIVE AND RESTRICTIVE MEASURES – REQUEST FROM AUSTRALIA**

11.1. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the statement made by Australia expressing concerns over a series of measures implemented by China on a range of goods imported from Australia, which had increased in recent months and included, among others, anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations on imports of barley and wine; delays in obtaining approval of export establishments for Australian agricultural commodities, including those that had voluntarily suspended exports to China due to detection of SARS COV-2; increased inspection and testing rates on consignments with live rock lobster and Australian wine; suspensions on imports of timber logs and barley exporters; and limited purchases and imports of Australian cotton. The Council also took note of the statement made by China in response to these concerns.

## **12 EGYPT – IMPORT RESTRICTIONS FOR SUGAR – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION**

12.1. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union expressing concerns over Egypt's prohibition on imports of raw and white sugar introduced as a temporary measure in June 2020 and its consistency with GATT Article XI:2(c). It also took note of the statement made by Brazil and of the statement made by Egypt in response to this concern.

## **13 NIGERIA – FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING DAIRY IMPORTS – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION**

13.1. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union expressing concerns over Nigeria's restrictions on access to foreign currency for the importation of dairy products and their derivatives which Nigeria justified under GATT Articles XII, XVIII, and XXI. Concerns were also raised regarding Nigeria's fulfilment of its commitments under the Understanding on the Balance-of-Payments Provisions of the GATT 1994. The Council also took note of the statement made by Nigeria in response to these concerns.

## **14 PANAMA – IMPORT RESTRICTING PRACTICES – REQUEST FROM COSTA RICA**

14.1. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the statement made by Costa Rica expressing concerns over Panama's import restricting practices, which included a ban on the import of tomatoes since 2011, restrictions applied since 2019 to bananas, plantains, pineapples, and strawberries, and other restrictive measures imposed in 2020 on dairy products, pork and beef, poultry, and other agricultural foodstuffs from Costa Rica and other regional partners. It also took note of the statement made by Mexico and of the statement made by Panama in response to these concerns.

## **15 KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA – TRADE RESTRICTIVE POLICIES AND PRACTICES CONCERNING TURKEY - REQUEST FROM TURKEY**

15.1. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the statement made by Turkey expressing concerns over the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's trade policies which affected Turkish products, including long delays in customs clearance and increased safety inspections applied to containers with perishable goods, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, and which represented additional costs and declines in imports of those sectors. It also took note of the statement made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in response to these concerns.

## **16 SRI LANKA – IMPORT BAN ON VARIOUS PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION**

16.1. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union expressing concerns over the Imports and Exports Control Regulations adopted by Sri Lanka in 2020 whose rationale was to ease pressure on the exchange rate and overall balance



of payments but which resulted in quantitative restrictions that affected trade in goods and created a *de facto* import ban. Those measures, of an initial temporary nature, had been revised and extended in scope and seemed to remain valid until further notice. The Council also took note of the statements made by Argentina and Australia, and of the statement made by Sri Lanka in response to these concerns.

#### **17 UNITED STATES – REVISED ORIGIN MARKING REQUIREMENT FOR GOODS PRODUCED IN HONG KONG – REQUEST FROM HONG KONG, CHINA**

17.1. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the statement made by Hong Kong, China expressing concerns over the revised origin marking requirement promulgated by the United States' Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) in August 2020, according to which goods produced in Hong Kong, China and imported into the US could no longer be marked to indicate "Hong Kong" as their origin, but had to indicate "China" instead. The Council also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to these concerns.

#### **18 EUROPEAN UNION – CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM (THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL OF DECEMBER 2019)**

18.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation expressing concerns over the European Union's intention to introduce a "carbon border adjustment mechanism" by means of a new excise duty on carbon intensive products, border tax or customs duty, carbon added tax, and surrender of (notional) emission trading system allowances upon importation of such products. It also took note of the statements made by China, Paraguay, the United States, and Uruguay, and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

18.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the statements made by Armenia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and the Russian Federation regarding their concerns over the EU's carbon border adjustment mechanism. It also took note of the statements made by Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Chinese Taipei, Turkey, the United States, and Uruguay, and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

#### **19 UNITED STATES – IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON APPLES AND PEARS – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION**

19.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union expressing its concerns that the United States had not published a Federal Notice related to the importation of apples and pears from EU member States, even though the US had finalized its scientific risk assessment on the application of exports of apples and pears from eight EU member States several years ago. It also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to these concerns.

19.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by the European Union regarding the United States not having published a Federal Notice related to the importation of apples and pears from EU member States. It also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to these concerns.

#### **20 MEXICO – FRONT OF PACK NUTRITION LABELING (NOM-51) – REQUEST FROM THE UNITED STATES**

20.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by the United States over Mexico's notification of "General Labeling Specifications for Pre-Packaged Foods and Non-Alcoholic Drinks – Commercial and Health Information (NOM-051)", intended to address public health but apparently more trade restrictive than necessary to meet Mexico's legitimate health objectives and lacking scientific evidence. It also took note of the statements made by Canada, Costa Rica, the European Union, and Guatemala, and of the statement made by Mexico in response to these concerns.

20.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by the United States regarding Mexico's "General Labelling Specifications for Pre-Packaged Foods and Non-Alcoholic Drinks – Commercial and Health Information (NOM-051)". It also took note of the statements made by Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Paraguay, and of the statement made by Mexico in response to these concerns.

## **21 UNITED STATES - EXECUTIVE ORDER ON SECURING THE BULK-POWER SYSTEM – REQUEST FROM CHINA**

21.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by China raising concerns over the definition of "foreign adversary" contained in the US Executive Order on Securing the US Bulk-Power System, which prohibited the acquisition, importation, transfer, or installation of certain "bulk-power system electric equipment" where the transaction involved property in which a "foreign adversary" had any interest and posed risks to US national security. It also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to these concerns.

21.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by China regarding the US definition of "foreign adversary" contained in the US Executive Order on Securing the US Bulk-Power System. It also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to these concerns.

## **22 EUROPEAN UNION – SAFEGUARD MEASURES ON IMPORTS OF CERTAIN STEEL PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

22.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation raising concerns over the European Union's safeguard measures on certain steel products and issues regarding their administration and progressive liberalization in accordance with Article 7.4 of the Safeguards Agreement. It also took note of the statement made by Korea and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

## **23 EUROPEAN UNION – PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF TRQ COMMITMENTS: SYSTEMIC CONCERNS**

23.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statements made by Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, 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>5</sup> It also took note of the statements made by Chile, Costa Rica, Indonesia, India, the Republic of Korea, Paraguay, and Chinese Taipei, and of the response provided by the European Union.

23.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the concerns raised by Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, the United States, and Uruguay over the TRQ commitments of the EU following the Brexit process. It also took note of the statements made by India, Indonesia, Korea, Mexico, Paraguay, Switzerland, and Chinese Taipei, and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

## **24 UNITED KINGDOM – DRAFT GOODS SCHEDULE AND PROPOSED UK TRQ COMMITMENTS: SYSTEMIC CONCERNS**

24.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the concerns raised by Australia; Brazil; Canada; China; New Zealand; the Russian Federation; Switzerland; the United States; and Uruguay, on the apportionment of the tariff rate quotas (TRQs) and the potential loss in market access resulting from the UK's new and independent draft WTO schedule, a consequence of the UK leaving the European Union. It also took note of the statement made by the United Kingdom in response to these concerns.

24.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the concerns raised by Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, the United States, and

<sup>5</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 12 November 2018 and 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

Uruguay regarding the UK's proposed schedule of concessions and TRQ commitments following Brexit. It also took note of the statements made by India, Mexico, Paraguay, Switzerland, and Chinese Taipei, and of the statement made by the United Kingdom in response to these concerns.

## **25 ENLARGEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO INCLUDE CROATIA: NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXIV:6 OF THE GATT 1994 – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

25.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation reiterating its concerns over the European Union's refusal to engage in the renegotiation process under GATT Article XXIV:6 following Croatia's accession to the EU.<sup>6</sup> It also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

25.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation reiterating 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 European Union's statement in response to these concerns.

## **26 EUROPEAN UNION – IMPLEMENTATION OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (G/C/W/767/REV.1)**

26.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the concerns expressed by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay over the EU's measures prohibiting the use of a number of agro-chemical substances required for safe and sustainable agriculture production, which were authorized for use by many WTO Members based on existing international standards.<sup>7</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and South Africa, and of the response provided by the European Union.

26.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the concerns raised by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the United States, and Uruguay regarding the EU's measures prohibiting the use of a number of agro-chemical substances. The Council also took note of the statements made by El Salvador, India, and the Philippines; and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

## **27 KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, OMAN, AND QATAR – SELECTIVE TAX ON CERTAIN IMPORTED PRODUCTS**

27.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union, Switzerland, and the United States reiterating their concerns over the GCC selective tax on energy drinks and other carbonated drinks.<sup>8</sup> The Council also took note of the statement made by Japan, and of the response provided by the Kingdom of Bahrain, on behalf of the GCC countries.

27.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statements made by the European Union, Japan, Switzerland, and the United States, reiterating their concerns over the discriminatory impact of the GCC selective tax. The Council also took note of the statement made by the United Arab Emirates, on behalf of the GCC countries, in response to these concerns.

## **28 INDONESIA – IMPORT AND EXPORT RESTRICTING POLICIES AND PRACTICES – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION, JAPAN, AND NEW ZEALAND**

28.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council again took note of the statements made by the European Union, Japan, and New Zealand raising again their concerns over Indonesia's trade and

<sup>6</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 12 November 2018 and 11 April and 8 July 2019.

<sup>7</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 8 July and 14 November 2019.

<sup>8</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 3 July and 12 November 2018 and 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

investment regime regarding a number of sectors.<sup>9</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia, the Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, and the United States, and of the response provided by Indonesia.

28.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statements made by the European Union, Japan, and New Zealand relating to their ongoing concerns over various aspects of Indonesia's trade and investment regime. The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia and the United States, and of the statement made by Indonesia in response to these concerns.

## **29 EUROPEAN UNION – QUALITY SCHEMES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FOODSTUFFS – THE REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN TERMS OF CHEESE AS GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS**

29.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statements made by Argentina, the United States, and Uruguay expressing again their concerns over the registration by the EU and Denmark of the terms DANBO and HAVARTI as GIs for cheese, disregarding the fact that these were generic terms according to the *Codex Alimentarius*.<sup>10</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia and New Zealand, and of the response provided by the European Union.

29.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statements made by 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 statements made by Argentina and New Zealand, and of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

## **30 EGYPT – MANUFACTURER REGISTRATION SYSTEM – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

30.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union and the Russian Federation maintaining their concerns regarding Egypt's procedures related to the compulsory registration of foreign companies and pre-shipment inspections.<sup>11</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by the Republic of Korea and Turkey, and of the response provided by Egypt.

30.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statements 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 Korea and Turkey, and of the statement made by Egypt in response to these concerns.

## **31 MONGOLIA – MEASURES APPLIED WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

31.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation reiterating its concern over the quota regime system in Mongolia for the importation of certain agricultural products, specifically wheat flour and liquid milk.<sup>12</sup> The Council also took note of the response provided by Mongolia.

31.2. At its meeting of 25 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.

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

<sup>10</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 3 July and 12 November 2018 and 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

<sup>11</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 6 April and 8 November 2017, 23 March, 3 July, and 12 November 2018, and 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

<sup>12</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 23 March, 3 July, and 12 November 2018 and 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

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

32.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by the United States reiterating its concerns over China's measures banning or limiting the import of scrap materials.<sup>13</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Canada, the European Union, and New Zealand, and of the response provided by China.

32.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by the United States, supported by Canada and New Zealand, reiterating its concerns over China's ban on imports of scrap materials. The Council also took note of the statement made by China in response to these concerns.

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

33.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statements made by Australia, Canada, the European Union, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the United States reiterating their concerns over India's quantitative restrictions on imports of pulses and, in particular, their administration in a trade-distorting manner.<sup>14</sup> The Council also took note of the response provided by India.

33.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statements made by Australia, Canada, the European Union, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the United States, supported by Argentina, 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 statement made by India in response to these concerns.

### **34 CHINA – CUSTOMS DUTIES ON CERTAIN INTEGRATED CIRCUITS**

34.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union, Japan, and Chinese Taipei, renewing their concerns over China's applied duties for semi-conductor products, which had been scheduled as duty-free under the ITA Expansion.<sup>15</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by the Republic of Korea and the United States, and of the response provided by China.

34.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statements made by the European Union and Japan, supported by Chinese Taipei and the United States, expressing concerns over the customs duties imposed by China on certain integrated circuits. The Council also took note of the statement made by China in response to these concerns.

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

35.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by the United States expressing again its concern over the EU's regulations on Protected Designations of Origin and Geographical Indications (GIs) and traditional terms for wine.<sup>16</sup> The Council also took note of the statement made by New Zealand, and of the response provided by the European Union.

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<sup>13</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 23 March, 3 July, and 12 November 2018, and 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

<sup>14</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 10 November 2017, 23 March, 3 July, and 12 November 2018, and 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

<sup>15</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 10 November 2017, 23 March, 3 July and 12 November 2018, and 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

<sup>16</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 12 November 2018, and 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

35.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by the United States, supported by Argentina and New Zealand, expressing concerns over the EU's regulations regarding protected designation of origin and GIs and traditional terms for wine. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

### **36 CHINA – NEW EXPORT CONTROL LAW IN DRAFT – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION AND JAPAN**

36.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union and Japan raising again concerns over the Chinese draft export control law consolidating various existing export control provisions into a single law.<sup>17</sup> The Council also took note of the statement made by the Republic of Korea, and of the response provided by China.

36.2. At its meeting of 25 November, under the title "China – Export Control Law" the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union and Japan expressing their concerns over the Chinese export control law which would take effect on 1 December 2020. The Council also took note of the statement made by China in response to these concerns.

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

37.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by China reiterating its concerns over the ban of the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on US telecommunications operators from using the Universal Service Fund (USF) to purchase equipment from Chinese companies, such as Huawei and ZTE.<sup>18</sup> The Council also took note of the response provided by the United States.

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

38.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by China reiterating its concerns over Australia's prohibition of Chinese equipment from Australian 5G projects, extended to also include its 4G network.<sup>19</sup> The Council also took note of the response provided by Australia.

38.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again 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.

### **39 UNITED STATES – MEASURES REGARDING MARKET ACCESS PROHIBITION FOR ICT PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM CHINA**

39.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by China raising again its concern regarding the US Executive Order on Securing the Information and Telecommunication Technology and Services Supply Chain banning US companies from buying or using telecommunications equipment and services provided by enterprises that were considered to pose a potential national security threat.<sup>20</sup> The Council also took note of the response provided by the United States.

39.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by China concerning the ban on US companies from buying or using certain telecommunications equipment and services. The Council also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to this concern.

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<sup>17</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 8 July and 14 November 2019.

<sup>18</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 3 July and 12 November 2018 and 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

<sup>19</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 12 November 2018, 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

<sup>20</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 8 July and 14 November 2019.



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

40.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by China expressing its concerns with the United States' determination of its national security interests and its export control measures, which interfered with international cooperation between enterprises.<sup>21</sup> The Council also took note of the response provided by the United States.

40.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by China concerning the US export control measures. The Council also took note of the statement made by the United States in response to this concern.

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

41.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation expressing again its concern over the proposed classification, labelling and packaging (CLP) requirements for titanium dioxide and cobalt, as well as to the EU's failure to approve bio-elution.<sup>22</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia and Brazil in support of these concerns, and of the response provided by the European Union.

41.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation reiterating its concerns over the scientific justification for classifying cobalt as carcinogenic and the labelling and packaging requirements in the European Union CLP Regulation. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

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

42.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union reiterating its concerns over the Russian Federation's policy of import substitution and forced localization of production, including the revision of the scheme of cement certification; the recent amendment to the Federal Law "on protecting consumer rights", making the pre-installation of Russian software mandatory in a number of consumer electronic devices; and the level of excise duties applicable for domestic and imported wines.<sup>23</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia and the United States, and of the response provided by the Russian Federation.

42.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union with regard to the amendment in Russia's law on the procurement of goods and services, the standards for imports of cement, the law to protect consumers' rights, the notification of the Law on Viticulture and Winemaking, and the export ban on timber. The Council also took note of the statement made by Australia, Ukraine, and the United States, and of the statement made by the Russian Federation in response to these concerns.

#### **43 EUROPEAN UNION – REGULATION (EU) 2017/2321 AND REGULATION (EU) 2018/825**

43.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation expressing again its systemic concern over the use by the EU of trade remedy instruments, including the methodology for calculating normal value in Regulation 2017/2321.<sup>24</sup> The Council also took note of the response provided by the European Union.

43.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the statements made by China and the Russian Federation over the EU Regulations 2017/2321 and 2018/825. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

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<sup>21</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 8 July and 14 November 2019.

<sup>22</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

<sup>23</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 6 April, 30 June, and 10 November 2017, 23 March, 3 July, and 12 November 2018, and 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

<sup>24</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meeting of 14 November 2019.

#### **44 EUROPEAN UNION – AMENDMENTS TO THE DIRECTIVE 2009/28/EC, RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE**

44.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statements made by Colombia and Malaysia reiterating their concerns over EU Regulation EU 2019/807 (Renewable Energy Directive, or RED), which singled out palm oil as a high indirect land use change (ILUC) risk feedstock while other major oil crops (rapeseed oil, soybean oil, and sunflower oil) were not.<sup>25</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Indonesia, and of the response provided by the European Union.

44.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statements made by Colombia, supported by Costa Rica and Guatemala, regarding the discriminatory treatment provided to biofuels and bio-liquids from palm oil in the amendment proposed to RED. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union in response to these concerns.

#### **45 ANGOLA – IMPORT RESTRICTING PRACTICES**

45.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council took note of the statements made by the Russian Federation and the United States reiterating their concerns over Angola's Presidential Decree of January 2019 aimed at restricting imports of 54 agricultural products in order to increase domestic economic development.<sup>26</sup> The Council also took note of the statements made by Brazil, Canada, and the European Union, and of the response provided by Angola.

45.2. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation over Angola's Presidential Decree No. 23/19 aimed at restricting a wide range of products. The Council also took note of the statements made by Brazil, the European Union, and the United States, and of the statement made by Angola in response to these concerns.

#### **46 PROCEDURES TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY AND STRENGTHEN NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER WTO AGREEMENTS – COMMUNICATION FROM ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, COSTA RICA, THE EUROPEAN UNION, ISRAEL, JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND, THE SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND THE UNITED STATES (JOB/GC/204/REV.3–JOB/CTG/14/REV.3 AND JOB/GC/204/REV.4–JOB/CTG/14/REV.4)**

46.1. At its meeting of 10 June, the Council considered document JOB/GC/204/Rev.3–JOB/CTG/14/Rev.3, 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>27</sup>, and took note of the statement made by the United States on its own behalf, and on behalf of the co-sponsors, introducing the revised text which contained additional flexibilities and clarifications on several aspects of the previous draft. Israel was announced as a new co-sponsor of the proposal and the UK indicated its intention to co-sponsor the proposal. The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia, the European Union, Israel, Japan, and Chinese Taipei in support of the proposal, as well as the statements provided by Bangladesh; Brazil; Burkina Faso (on behalf of Chad and the LDC Group); Chile; China; Côte d'Ivoire; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; the Republic of Korea; Mexico; Paraguay; the Russian Federation; Senegal; Singapore; South Africa; Switzerland; Thailand; Ukraine; the United Kingdom; and Uruguay. Delegations that intervened highlighted the importance of transparency for the well-being and proper functioning of the WTO.

46.2. At its meeting of 25 November, under agenda item "Other Business", the Council took note of the information provided by the United States, that the United Kingdom had joined the list of co-sponsors as indicated in document JOB/GC/204/Rev.4–JOB/CTG/14/Rev.4, and that the

<sup>25</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 23 March (under agenda item "Other Business"), 3 July, and 12 November 2018, and 11 April, 8 July, and 14 November 2019.

<sup>26</sup> This concern had already been raised at the meetings of 8 July and 14 November 2019.

<sup>27</sup> This issue had already been raised by the United States at previous Council's meetings since 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). At its meeting of 8 July 2019, the co-sponsors had submitted a second revised version of the proposal (JOB/GC/204/Rev.2–JOB/CTG/14/Rev.2).



co-sponsors will continue outreach to Members to build support for the proposal and intend to return with a full update at the Council's spring meeting.

#### **47 WORK PROGRAMME ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE**

47.1. At the CTG meeting of 10 June, 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.

47.2. At the same meeting, the Council took note of the statements made by Burkina Faso, on behalf of Chad and the LDC Group; Nepal; and South Africa, urging the Council to engage in a meaningful discussion to reinvigorate the Work Programme on E-Commerce, particularly in light of its increasing importance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

47.3. At its meeting of 25 November, the Chairperson recalled the mandate in the Ministerial Decision at Buenos Aires and took note of the statements made by Botswana, on behalf of the African Group, and India calling for reinvigoration of multilateral work under the Work Programme and constructive engagement in discussions on E-Commerce in the CTG. The Council also took note of the request of the United States that the CTG Chair's factual report to the General Council be adopted by a written procedure.

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

48.1. At the CTG meeting of 10 June, the Chairperson reported on the informal meeting of 5 February 2020 convened with the aim of continuing discussions on the better functioning of the Council for Trade in Goods and its subsidiary committees, and explained the issues that had been addressed by Members, namely: (i) Year Plan of Meetings; (ii) Annotated Agenda for CTG Meetings; (iii) Reminder of Meetings; (iv) Circulation of Meeting Statements; (v) CTG/Committee Contact Lists; (vi) General Email Box for the CTG/Committees; and (vii) Annual Briefing Session for New Delegates. He observed that the COVID-19 pandemic had prevented the Secretariat from advancing with some of the issues, but that he would request his successor to continue, with the support of Members and the Secretariat, the work on those topics that had received the acceptance of Members. The Council also took note of the statements made by Canada; Chile; the European Union; Hong Kong, China; Senegal; and South Africa.

48.2. At its meeting of 25 November, under agenda item "Other Business", the Council took note of the information provided by the Chair recalling some of the issues discussed during the informal meeting of the Council that took place on 5 February, and noting that, if Members were in agreement, it was his intention to organize an informal meeting of the Goods Council early in 2021, in order to discuss Members' proposals and ideas on how to conduct the Council and make its work and meetings more efficient. The Council also took note of the statements made by Argentina; Canada; Colombia; Costa Rica; the European Union; Guatemala; Hong Kong, China; Mexico; Paraguay; and the United Kingdom on several issues, such as the e-year plan of meetings, the e-registration, and the conduct of the meetings. The Council also took note earlier on in the meeting of the US intervention about certain elements relating to the conduct of the meeting.

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

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

49.1. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council took note of the annual reports of its subsidiary bodies.<sup>29</sup> The Annual Report of the Committee on Agriculture would be submitted directly to the General Council at its December 2020 meeting.

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

50.1. At its meeting of 25 November, the Council decided to adopt its Annual Report (2020) to the General Council following a written procedure once it would be completed by the Secretariat in light of the developments at the November meeting.

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<sup>29</sup> Anti-Dumping Practices (G/L/1366 and G/ADP/27); Customs Valuation (G/L/1372); Import Licensing (G/L/1369); ITA (G/L/1371); Market Access (G/L/1377); Pre-shipment Inspection and Independent Entity (G/L/1373); Rules of Origin (G/L/1378); Safeguards (G/L/1367 and G/SG/251); Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (G/L/1376); Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (G/L/1368 and G/SCM/157); Technical Barriers to Trade (G/L/1379); Trade Facilitation (G/L/1375); TRIMs (G/L/1363 and G/L/1363/Corr.1, and G/TRIMS/10 and G/TRIMS/10/Corr.1); and Working Party on State Trading Enterprises (G/L/1370 and G/STR/26).