



11 October 2013

(13-5538)

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**Committee on Market Access**

**REPORT (2013) OF THE COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS**

1. Since the last review<sup>1</sup>, the Committee on Market Access has held two formal meetings (7 May and 7 October 2013) and four informal meetings (13 December 2012, 14 March, 3 May and 12 July 2013). The minutes of the formal meetings are contained in documents G/MA/M/57 and G/MA/M/58.

2. At its meeting of 7 May, the Committee took note of the nomination of Mr. Krzysztof Trepczynski (Poland) as Chairman of the Committee for the current year and elected him by acclamation.

**A. PERIODIC REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS**

3. The practice of the twice-a-year report to the Council for Trade in Goods, which is in addition to the annual report, had its origin in the early 1990s when a large number of individual waivers were renewed almost automatically every six months. A background note on this subject by the Secretariat was circulated in JOB/MA/105. At its meeting of 7 May, the Chairman reported on his consultations concerning the need to continue with this practice, and at its meeting of 7 October, the Committee agreed to discontinue it. The Committee took note that the Council for Trade in Goods would be advised of the Committee's decision.

**B. WAIVERS**

4. At its meeting of 7 October, the Committee approved the extension of the HS2002 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/682), the HS2007 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/683) and the HS2012 "collective waiver" (G/C/W/684). The Committee agreed that a revised version of the HS2012 waiver decision should be issued in order to include Argentina. The Committee agreed to forward the draft waiver decisions (G/C/W/682, G/C/W/683 and G/C/W/684/Rev.1) to the Council for Trade in Goods for appropriate action.

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

5. At its meetings in 2013, the Committee took note of the status of the HS1996 transposition work undertaken pursuant to the procedures contained in L/6905 and WT/L/756.

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

6. At its meetings in 2013, the Committee took note of the status of work concerning the introduction of HS2002 changes to schedules of concessions using the CTS database (WT/L/605 and WT/L/807) as well as the outcomes of the informal dedicated sessions of the Committee during which the files containing the HS2002 changes of Members were examined.

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<sup>1</sup> G/L/1010, dated 6 November 2012.

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

7. At its meetings in 2013, the Committee took note of the status of work concerning the introduction of HS2007 changes to schedules of concessions using the CTS database (WT/L/673 and WT/L/830) as well as the outcomes of the informal dedicated sessions of the Committee during which the files containing the HS2007 changes of Members were examined.

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

8. At its formal meetings in 2013, the Committee took note that the Secretariat had not commenced the HS2012 transposition work as the focus was on moving ahead with the HS2007 exercise.

**G. DECISION ON NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS**

9. During its meetings in 2013, the Committee examined the quantitative restriction notifications submitted by Members under the Decision on Notification Procedures for Quantitative Restrictions (G/L/59/Rev.1). The Committee took note of the document (G/MA/QR/1) which had been prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 7 of the decision, and of comments made in relation to this notification exercise.

**H. DATABASES**

10. At its meetings in 2013, the Secretariat reported on the status of work concerning the Integrated Data Base (IDB) and the Consolidated Tariff Schedules (CTS) database. The Committee also took note of the documents which reflected the status of submissions to the IDB (G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.37 and 38).

11. At its meeting of 7 May, the Committee approved a request (G/MA/W/112) from the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) for access to the databases.

12. During its meetings in 2013, the Committee discussed and took note of a Secretariat document which consolidated the notification requirements of the IDB (JOB/MA/106/Rev.1).

**I. DRAFT DECISION DERESTRICTING NEGOTIATING MATERIAL OF EARLIER GATT ROUNDS**

13. At its formal meeting in May, the Committee approved on an *ad referendum* basis with a two-month period for comments the draft decision in document G/MA/W/111 which proposed to derestrict on 1 July the negotiating material of the Dillon Round and some negotiating material of the earlier GATT Rounds. This decision had been elaborated pursuant to the procedures contained in G/MA/285. As no comments were received, a slightly revised version of the draft decision (adjusted in order to take account a new proposed date of derestriction, i.e. 1 August) was forwarded to the Council for Trade in Good and subsequently to the General Council. The General Council adopted the decision on 31 July 2013 and the decision was issued as WT/L/892. At its meeting of 7 October, the Committee approved the procedures to derestrict the negotiating material of the Kennedy Round (JOB/MA/109)<sup>2</sup>.

**J. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

14. At its meeting in May, the Committee took note of the Secretariat document entitled "Situation of Schedules of WTO Members" (G/MA/W/23/Rev.9) which compiled in one place the legal instruments relating to each Member's schedule. The Committee also took note of concerns expressed about Ukraine's use of import licensing procedures to administer newly introduced quotas on coking coal and prohibition on metallurgical coke.

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<sup>2</sup> The approved procedures have been issued in document G/MA/287.