



REPORT (2016) 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 2015 Annual Report (G/L/1140) was issued, the CTG met four times in formal session, on the following dates: 15 April 2016 (G/C/M/125); 11 May 2016 (G/C/M/125/Add.1); 14 July 2016 (G/C/M/126); and 17 November 2016 (G/C/M/127¹).

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

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1 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

1.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council elected Ambassador Hamish McCORMICK (Australia) as its Chairperson for 2016.

2 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS FOR THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COUNCIL

2.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council agreed to suspend this agenda item in order for the Chair to continue to carry out his consultations on the nomination of persons to chair the subsidiary bodies of the Goods Council; it also agreed to reconvene a meeting once the process had been concluded. On 11 May the Council reconvened its meeting to conclude this agenda item; took note of the statement made by the outgoing Chair, and agreed on the nominations of the following persons for election as Chairpersons of its subsidiary bodies for 2016:

Chairpersons of CTG Subsidiary Bodies	
Market Access	Ms Hanna Olsen BODSBERG (Norway)
Agriculture	Mr Garth EHRHARDT (Canada)
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	Ms Marcela OTERO (Chile)
Technical Barriers to Trade	Ms Esther PEH (Singapore)
TRIMs	Ms Marine WILLEMETZ (Switzerland)
Anti-Dumping Practices	Mr Peira SHANNON (Australia)
Subsidies and Countervailing Measures	Mr Jin-dong KIM (Korea)
Safeguards	Mr Yugsong CHEN (China)
Import Licensing	Mr Tapio PYYSALO (Finland)
Rules of Origin	Mr Chin-Tung CHANG (Chinese Taipei)
Customs Valuation	Dr Yasser KORANI (Egypt)
State Trading Enterprises	Ms Yeili RANGEL PEÑARANDA (Colombia)
Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products (ITA Committee)	Ms Zsofia TVARUSKO (Hungary)

2.2. At the same meeting, the Council agreed to proceed on the understanding that, as concerns 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.

2.3. The Council also took note of the statements made by Canada; Chile; Colombia; Ecuador; the European Union; Mexico; Morocco (on behalf of the African Group); Oman; Singapore; Sri Lanka (on behalf of the Asian Group); and the United States.

3 MATTERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS

3.1 Draft decision on the Procedure for the Introduction of Harmonized System 2017 Changes to Schedules of Concessions using the Consolidated Tariff Schedules (CTS) database

3.1. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council considered a draft decision on the Procedure for the Introduction of Harmonized System 2017 Changes to Schedules of Concessions using the Consolidated Tariff Schedules (CTS) database. The Council approved the draft decision and agreed that the draft decision (G/C/W/732) be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

3.2 Collective waiver requests on the introduction of the Harmonized System 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017

3.2. At its meeting of 17 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/728)

4.1. At its meeting of 17 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 (G/C/W/728) 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/729)

4.2. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council considered a collective request for an extension of the waiver in connection with the introduction of HS 2007 changes to the Schedules of Concessions. The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision (G/C/W/729) 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/730)

4.3. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council considered a collective request for a waiver in connection with the introduction of HS 2012 changes to the Schedules of Concessions. The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision (G/C/W/730) 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/733 and G/C/W/733/Rev.1)

4.4. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council considered a collective request for a waiver in connection with the introduction of HS 2017 changes to the Schedules of Concessions. The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that a revised draft decision (G/C/W/733/Rev.1), including other Members in the Annex to the decision, 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 15 April, as agreed by the CTG at its meeting of 10 November 2015, the Council continued considering Jordan's waiver request and draft waiver decision concerning the Transitional Period for the Elimination of the Export Subsidy Program 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). The Chairperson reminded delegations that, at the CTG meeting in November 2015, Jordan had introduced document G/C/W/705/Rev.2, limiting its request to three (3) years and annexing a WTO action plan to implement a WTO-compatible programme in replacement of the current programme. The Council took note of the statement made by Jordan; and of the statements made by Australia; China; Egypt; Guatemala; Japan; New Zealand; Oman; Pakistan; Qatar; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Chinese Taipei; Turkey; and the United States. At Jordan's request, the Council agreed to revert to the matter at its meeting of 17 November, when Jordan would inform the Council about the development of its replacement programme.

4.6. At its meeting of 17 November, Jordan informed the Council about the development of its subsidy replacement programme. The Council took note of the statements made by Jordan, as well as of the statements made by Australia; China; Egypt; Japan; New Zealand; Pakistan; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Chinese Taipei; Turkey; and the United States. The Council agreed to revert to this issue at its meeting in April 2017.

4.6 United States – Request for a Waiver Extension – Former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (G/C/W/721)

4.7. At the CTG meeting of 15 April, the Council considered a request and a draft waiver decision submitted by the United States relating to the extension of the waiver concerning the Former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (G/C/W/721). The Council took note of the statement made by the United States, and of the statement made by the European Union on its internal procedures. The Council agreed to revert to this request at its meeting of 14 July.

4.8. At the CTG meeting of 14 July, the Council again considered the request and draft waiver decision submitted by the United States relating to the extension of the waiver concerning the Former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (G/C/W/721). The Council took note of the statement made by the United States, and of the statement made by the European Union relating to its internal procedures. The Council agreed to revert to this request at its meeting of 17 November.

4.9. At the CTG meeting of 17 November, the Council again considered the request and draft waiver decision submitted by the United States. The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision (G/C/W/721) be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

4.7 United States – Request for a Waiver: Trade Preferences Granted to Nepal (G/C/W/724)

4.10. At the CTG meeting of 14 July, the Council considered a request and draft waiver decision submitted by the United States relating to certain trade preferences to be granted to Nepal, contained in document G/C/W/724. The Council took note of the statement made by the United

States, and of the statements made by Nepal and the European Union, and agreed to revert to the request at its meeting of 17 November.

4.11. At the CTG meeting of 17 November, the Council again considered the request and draft waiver decision submitted by the United States. The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision (G/C/W/724) be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

4.8 European Union – Request for a Waiver Extension – Application of Autonomous Preferential Treatment to the Western Balkans (G/C/W/731)

4.12. At the CTG meeting of 17 November, the Council considered a request and draft waiver decision submitted by the European Union relating to the extension of the preferential treatment granted to products originating in the Western Balkans (Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; Kosovo²; Montenegro; Serbia; and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision (G/C/W/731) be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

4.9 Cuba – Request for a Waiver Extension – Article XV:6 of the GATT 1994 contained in the decision of 14 February 2012 (WT/L/850) – (G/C/W/734)

4.13. At the CTG meeting of 17 November, the Council considered a request and draft waiver decision submitted by Cuba relating to the extension of the waiver granted to Cuba in order to facilitate its compliance with Article XV:6 of the GATT 1994. The Council approved the waiver request and recommended that the draft decision (G/C/W/734) be forwarded to the General Council for adoption.

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

5.1 Enlargement of the European Union on 1 July 2013 (G/L/1051/Add.5)

5.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union and agreed to extend the deadline mentioned by the European Union in document G/L/1051/Add.5 until 1 January 2017.

5.2. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union pertaining to the progress it had made in respect of its enlargement following the accession of the Republic of Croatia on 1 July 2013. The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia and Brazil.

5.2 Enlargement of the European Union on 1 July 2013 (G/L/1051/Add.6)

5.3. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union and agreed to extend the deadline mentioned in document G/L/1051/Add.6 until 1 July 2017. The Council also took note of the statements made by Brazil and the Russian Federation.

6 ACCESSION OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC TO THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION: PROCEDURES UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:3 OF GATT 1994

6.1. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council considered the extension of the deadline set out in document G/L/1110/Add.1 from the Kyrgyz Republic, or until 12 February 2018. The Council also took note of the clarification provided by the Kyrgyz Republic that the exact date of the ratification of its Protocol of Accession to the EURASIAN Economic Union (EAEU) was 15 August 2015, and that all periods referred to in its communication should consequently run from 12 August 2015, and not from 9 May 2015 as indicated in its initial request (document G/L/1137). The Council took note of the statements made by the Kyrgyz Republic; China; the European Union; Japan; and Switzerland, and approved the requested extension until 12 February 2018.

² Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99.

6.2. At its meeting of 17 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. The Council also took note of the statements made by China; the European Union; Japan; Switzerland; Turkey; and Ukraine.

7 ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION: PROCEDURES UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:3 OF GATT 1994

7.1. At its meeting of 14 July, the European Union invited Armenia and others to follow its practice of periodically updating the Council about the progress made in respect of the renegotiation processes following their accession to the EAEU. The Council took note of the statement made by the European Union and of the statements made by Brazil; Canada; China; Japan; Chinese Taipei; Ukraine; and the United States. The Council also took note of the information provided by Armenia on its renegotiations following its accession to the EAEU.

7.2. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the Republic of Armenia and agreed to extend the deadline mentioned in document G/L/1110/Add.2 until 2 January 2018. The Council also took note of the statements made by China; the European Union; Japan; Chinese Taipei; and Ukraine.

8 NOTIFICATION OF REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

8.1. At its meetings on 15 April, 14 July, and 17 November, the Council was informed of the following notifications on regional trade agreements:

- a. Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Korea and New Zealand (WT/REG367/N/1);
- b. Accession of Seychelles to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Free Trade Area (WT/REG368/N/1);
- c. Free Trade Agreement between Australia and China (WT/REG369/N/1);
- d. Free Trade Agreement between China and the Republic of Korea (WT/REG370/N/1);
- e. Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Korea and Viet Nam (WT/REG371/N/1);
- f. Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and Mongolia (WT/REG373/N/1);
- g. Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and Panama (WT/REG374/N/1); and
- h. Free Trade Agreement between the Republic of Korea and Colombia (WT/REG375/N/1).

9 NOTIFICATIONS

9.1 Status of notifications under the provisions of the Agreements in Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement (G/L/223/Rev.23)

9.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council took note of the latest revision of the status of notifications contained in document G/L/223/Rev.23, and of the statements made by the European Union and the United States concerning the importance of timely notifications and of the compilation of notifications contained in the G/L/223 series. The Council also took note of the explanation provided by the Secretariat as to how the document containing the compilation of the annual notifications made by Members under the Agreements in Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement is prepared.

10 RUSSIAN FEDERATION – TRADE RESTRICTING MEASURES – REQUEST FROM UKRAINE (G/C/W/720)³

10.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council took note of the statement made by Ukraine relating to the trade-restricting measures applied by the Russian Federation that restricted international traffic in transit from the territory of Ukraine to third destinations via the territory of the Russian Federation, and of the questions posed to the Russian Federation in document G/C/W/720. The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia; Canada; the European Union; Jamaica; Japan; the Republic of Korea; Switzerland; Turkey; and the United States, and of the responses provided by the Russian Federation.

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

11.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council took note of statements made by the European Union, Japan, and the United States, relating to 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, domestic manufacturing requirements, sales restrictions on 4G mobile phones, and a general lack of transparency, amongst others. The Council also took note of statements made by Australia; Brazil; Canada; the Republic of Korea; New Zealand; Switzerland; and Chinese Taipei; and of the statement made by Indonesia in response to these concerns.

11.2. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council again took note of statements made by the European Union, Japan, and the United States, relating to their continued concerns on 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, domestic manufacturing requirements, sales restrictions on 4G mobile phones and a general lack of transparency, amongst others. The Council also took note of statements made by Australia; Brazil; Chinese Taipei; the Republic of Korea; New Zealand; and Norway; and of the statement made by Indonesia in response to these concerns.

11.3. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council again took note of statements made by the European Union, Japan, and the United States, relating to their continued concerns on 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, domestic manufacturing requirements, sales restrictions on 4G mobile phones and a general lack of transparency, amongst others. The Council also took note of statements made by Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chinese Taipei; the Republic of Korea; New Zealand; and Norway, and of the statement made by Indonesia in response to these concerns.

12 CHINA – ISSUES RELATED TO TRADE IN SEAFOOD – REQUEST FROM NORWAY

12.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council took note of the statements made by Norway relating to measures implemented by China since December 2010 that affected Norwegian exports of seafood, including quarantine and testing procedures, and allocation of "import licences" for salmon. The Council also took note of the statement by the European Union, and of the responses provided by China.

12.2. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council took note of the statements made by Norway relating to measures implemented by China since December 2010 that affected Norwegian exports of seafood. The measures included quarantine and testing procedures, and allocation of "import licences" for salmon. The Council also took note of the statement by the European Union, as well as the statement made by China.

12.3. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council again took note of the statement made by Norway relating to the measures implemented by China since December 2010 that affected

³ See Section 25.3 below.

Norwegian exports of seafood. The Council also took note of the statement made by the European Union, and of China's responses to this issue.

13 NIGERIA – IMPORT RESTRICTING MEASURES

13.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council took note of the statements made by Chile, the European Union, Iceland, Norway, Thailand, the United States, and Uruguay, relating to the long-standing import restricting measures imposed by Nigeria, including currency restrictions and local content requirements. These measures had a significant impact on imports of fish products and construction materials, amongst other products. The Council also took note of statements made by Australia; Chinese Taipei; Japan; and Switzerland, as well as of the statement made by Nigeria.

13.2. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council took note of the statements made by the European Union, Iceland, Norway, Thailand, the United States, and Uruguay, relating to the continued import restricting measures imposed by Nigeria, including currency restrictions and local content requirements. The Council also took note of statements made by Argentina; Australia; Chile; Japan; and Chinese Taipei, as well as of the statement made by Nigeria.

13.3. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council again discussed the continued import restricting measures imposed by Nigeria, including currency restrictions and local content requirements, and took note of statements made by Argentina; Australia; Chile; the European Union; Iceland; Japan; Norway; Thailand; the United States; and Uruguay, as well as of the statement made by Nigeria.

14 ECUADOR – IMPORT RESTRICTING MEASURES – REQUEST FROM JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES

14.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council took note of the statements made by Japan and the United States relating to import restricting measures on automobiles and balance-of-payment (BOP) measures taken by Ecuador, and of the questions posed by the United States to Ecuador in document G/C/W/722. The Council also took note of the statements made by Canada; Chile; the European Union; the Republic of Korea; and Switzerland, and of the statement made by Ecuador in response to the concerns raised.

14.2. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council again took note of the statements made by Japan and the United States relating to import restricting measures on automobiles and BOP measures taken by Ecuador. The Council also took note of the statements made by Canada; Chile; Colombia; the European Union; Guatemala; the Republic of Korea; Mexico; Peru; and Switzerland, and of the statement made by Ecuador.

14.3. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council again took note of further statements made by Japan and the United States relating to import restricting measures on automobiles and BOP measures taken by Ecuador. The Council also took note of the statements made by Canada; the European Union; the Republic of Korea; Switzerland; and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and of the statement made by Ecuador.

15 UKRAINE – ISSUES RELATED TO CUSTOMS VALUATION – REQUEST FROM NORWAY

15.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council took note of the statement made by Norway relating to the use by Ukraine of indicative prices to determine the customs value in respect of fish and fish products. The Council also took note of the statements made by Japan, Switzerland, and the United States, and of the statement made by Ukraine.

15.2. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council again took note of the statement made by Norway relating to the use of indicative prices to determine the customs value of imports of fish and fish products. The Council also took note of the statements made by the European Union; Switzerland; and the United States, and of the statement made by Ukraine.

16 INDIA – IMPORT RESTRICTING MEASURES

16.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council took note of the statement made by Japan relating to the introduction by India of minimum import prices on iron and steel products, port closures affecting apple imports, tariff increases, and localized conformity assessment requirements, amongst other concerns. The Council also took note of statements made by Australia; Canada; Chile; China; the European Union; New Zealand; the Republic of Korea; Chinese Taipei; and the United States. The Council also took note of the statement made by India.

16.2. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council again took note of the statements made by Japan and New Zealand relating to the introduction by India of minimum import prices on iron and steel products, as well as port closures affecting apple imports, amongst other concerns. The Council also took note of statements made by Australia; Canada; China; the European Union; the Republic of Korea; Chinese Taipei; and the United States, and of the statement made by India.

16.3. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council further discussed India's import restricting measures relating to the introduction by India of minimum import prices on iron and steel products, port closures affecting apple imports, tariff increases, and localized conformity assessment requirements, amongst other concerns. The Council took note of statements made by Australia; Canada; China; the European Union; Japan; the Republic of Korea; New Zealand; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and the United States, and of the statement made by India.

17 PAKISTAN – DISCRIMINATORY TAXES – REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

17.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union about a taxation mechanism implemented by Pakistan which apparently established discriminatory taxation between products produced locally and those imported into Pakistan. The Council also took note of the statements made by Canada; Japan; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; and the United States, and of the statement made by Pakistan.

18 EUROPEAN UNION – ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION ON IMPORTS OF COLD-ROLLED FLAT STEEL PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND CHINA – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

18.1. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation relating to anti-dumping investigations undertaken by the European Union in respect of cold-rolled flat steel products originating in the Russian Federation and China. The Council also took note of the statements made by China and the European Union.

19 SRI LANKA – DAIRY TARIFFS – REQUEST FROM NEW ZEALAND

19.1. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council took note of the statement made by New Zealand relating to tariffs being applied by Sri Lanka above its ad valorem binding to skimmed and whole milk powder. The Council also took note of the statement made by Sri Lanka.

20 CANADA – WINE RELATED POLICIES AND MEASURES – REQUEST FROM NEW ZEALAND

20.1. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council took note of the statement made by New Zealand relating to the wine-related policies and measures adopted by the Canadian provincial authorities of British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia; Chile; the European Union; Mexico; and the United States, as well as of the statement made by Canada.

21 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – MEASURES RELATED TO IMPORTS OF FISH AND SEAFOOD PRODUCTS⁴

21.1. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation relating to a proposed rule under the Seafood Import Monitoring Program

⁴ See Section 25.2 below.

(SIMP) of the United States aimed at combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and seafood fraud. The Russian Federation asked for further clarification on the reporting requirements for fish producers and exporters and importers under the SIMP. The Council also took note of the statements made by Indonesia and the United States.

21.2. At its meeting of 17 November, at the request of China, under the title "United States of America – Seafood Import Monitoring Programme", the Council took note of statements made by China and the Russian Federation in respect of the US' Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) aimed at combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and seafood fraud. The Council also took note of the statement made by the United States.

22 CROATIA – REGULATION OF IMPORT AND SALE OF CERTAIN OIL PRODUCTS – REQUEST FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

22.1. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council took note of a statement made by the Russian Federation in respect of Croatia's requirements for imports and sale of certain oil products. The Council also took note of a statement made the European Union.

23 CHINA – IMPORT TAX ON PERSONAL EFFECTS AT THE BORDER – REQUEST FROM JAPAN⁵

23.1. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council took note of a statement made by Japan in respect of import taxes being applied on personal effects at the border in China. The Council also took note of the statement made by Korea, and the statement made in response by China.

24 WORK PROGRAMME ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

24.1. At its meeting of 15 April, the Chairperson recalled that, at the last Ministerial Conference, held in Nairobi in December 2015, Ministers had adopted the decision contained in document WT/L/977 on the "Work Programme on Electronic Commerce" (Work Programme or WPEC). In this decision, Ministers reaffirmed not only the mandate of the Work Programme adopted on 25 September 1998 and contained in document WT/L/274, but also reaffirmed subsequent Ministerial Declarations and Decisions on the Work Programme. Therefore, Ministers decided to continue the work under the WPEC since the last session, based on the existing mandate and guidelines and on the basis of proposals submitted by Members in the relevant WTO bodies as set out in paragraphs 2 to 5 of the Work Programme. To this end, they instructed the General Council to hold periodic reviews in its sessions of July and December 2016 and July 2017, based on the reports that might be submitted by those WTO bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Work Programme, including this Council, and to report to the next session of the Ministerial Conference. With a view to informing the General Council, at its July 2016 session, about the discussions that had taken place on e-commerce in this Council, he invited delegations to make their statements on this matter.

24.2. Given that there were no interventions from Members, he proposed that the Council take note of the information he had provided and to revert to this issue at the next CTG meeting.

24.3. At its meeting of 14 July, the Chairperson recalled the mandate contained in document WT/L/977, adopted by Ministers at the Ministerial Conference in Nairobi in December 2015; and with a view to fulfilling the mandate given to this Council to report to the General Council at its July and December 2016 and July 2017 meetings about the discussions that had taken place on E-commerce in the CTG, he invited delegations to make their statements and suggestions on this matter.

24.4. Canada; China; the European Union; Japan; Korea; Switzerland; and the United States encouraged Members to reinvigorate and widen discussion on e-commerce, to make more effective use of the Work Programme, to promote digital economic growth and reinforce the openness that had allowed the Internet to become a dynamic force for economic growth, to increase access to best technologies, and to bolster the Internet's ability to facilitate commerce in digital products,

⁵ See Section 25.4 below.

services, and physical goods. General reference was also made to the JOB documents (JOB/GC/94, JOB/GC/96, and JOB/GC/97) that were circulated to Members through the General Council.

24.5. The Council took note of the statements made and agreed that in order to fulfil the Nairobi mandate, the Chairperson would make, on his own responsibility, a purely factual report to the General Council on 27-28 July based on the discussions held in the CTG at its meetings of 15 April and 14 July.

24.6. At its meeting of 17 November, the Chairperson recalled the mandate contained in document WT/L/977, adopted by Ministers at the Ministerial Conference in Nairobi in December 2015; and with a view to fulfilling the mandate given to this Council to report to the General Council at its July and December 2016 and July 2017 meetings about the discussions that had taken place on E-commerce in the CTG, he invited delegations to make their statements and suggestions on this matter.

24.7. China and Pakistan introduced a communication circulated to the General Council, the Goods and Services Councils, and the Committee on Trade and Development (JOB/GC/110/Rev.1, JOB/CTG/2/Rev.1, JOB/SERV/243/Rev.1, and JOB/DEV/39/Rev.1), pertaining to the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce. China noted the complexity of the e-commerce debate, including in particular the wide digital gap among Members, and expressed the desire to proceed progressively in an inclusive manner on e-commerce, with a focus on realizing pragmatic progress at MC11.

24.8. The Council took note of the statements made by 22 delegations (Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Colombia; Costa Rica; Ecuador; the EU; Hong Kong, China; India; Japan; Korea; Mexico; Paraguay; Peru; Russian Federation; Singapore; South Africa; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; the United States; and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) which referred to various aspects of China and Pakistan's communication.

25 ISSUES CONSIDERED UNDER AGENDA ITEM "OTHER BUSINESS"

25.1 Information about the expiry date of Section 15(a)(ii) of the Protocol on the Accession of China

25.1. At its meeting of 15 April, China again informed the Council that Section 15(a)(ii) of its Protocol of Accession would expire on 11 December 2016 and indicated that, consequently, Members using the surrogate or analogue country methodology in their anti-dumping investigations against China should take the necessary steps to bring their legislation into line with the new conditions after the expiry date of Section 15. The Council took note of the information provided by China.

25.2. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council again took note of the information provided by China relating to the expiry date of Section 15(a)(ii) of its Protocol of Accession on 11 December 2016. The Council also took note of a statement made by the United States and of the response provided by China.

25.3. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council again took note of the information provided by China relating to the expiry date of Section 15(a)(ii) of its Protocol of Accession on 11 December 2016. The Council also took note of statements made by Canada; the European Union; Mexico; and the United States, as well as of the response provided by China.

25.2 United States' Seafood Import Monitoring Programme⁶

25.4. At its meeting of 15 April, the Council took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation relating to a proposed Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) of the United States aimed at combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and seafood fraud. The Council also took note of the statements made by Norway, and the United States.

⁶ See Section 21 above.

25.3 Russian Federation's Trade Measures Affecting Ukrainian Transit of Products⁷

25.5. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council took note of the statement made by Ukraine concerning a recent expansion of the Russian Federation's trade-restrictive measures that affected goods imported from Ukraine, particularly establishing some prohibitions to import certain agricultural goods, and various restrictive transit measures. The Council also took note of the statements made by Australia; Canada; the European Union; Japan; the Republic of Korea; Norway; Turkey; and the United States, as well as of the statement made by the Russian Federation.

25.4 China's Import Tax System on Personal Effects at the Border – Request from Japan⁸

25.6. At its meeting of 14 July, the Council took note of the statement made by Japan in relation to the simplified import tax system on personal effects of China. The Council also took note of the statement made by China.

25.5 Turkey's Measures Regarding Additional Customs Duties on Imported Tyres – Request from Japan

25.7. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council took note of the statement made by Japan in respect of additional customs duties imposed by Turkey in respect of imported tyres. The Council also took note of the statements made by Chinese Taipei and Turkey.

25.6 Members' Notifications – Request from New Zealand

25.8. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council took note of the statement by New Zealand flagging its desire to see a more fulsome discussion at the CTG's April 2017 meeting relating to Members' poor compliance record with submitting timely and complete notifications. The Council also took note of statements made by Australia; Brazil; Costa Rica; the European Union; Japan; Singapore; Switzerland; and the United States.

25.7 Russian Federation's Certification Requirements for Cement – Request from the European Union

25.9. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council took note of the statement made by the European Union in respect of the Russian Federation's certification requirements for cement products. The Council also took note of the statement made by the Russian Federation in response.

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

26.1. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council took note of the annual reports of its subsidiary bodies.⁹

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

27.1. At its meeting of 17 November, the Council adopted its Annual Report (2016) to the General Council.

⁷ See Section 10 above.

⁸ See section 23 above.

⁹ Agriculture (G/L/1165); TRIMs (G/L/1153 and G/TRIMS/6); Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (G/L/1157 and G/SCM/148); Anti-dumping (G/L/1158 and G/ADP/23); Safeguards (G/L/1155 and G/SG/142); Market Access (G/L/1154); Import Licensing (G/LIC/W/47); Customs Valuation (G/L/1160); Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (G/L/1164); ITA (G/L/1163); Pre-shipment Inspection and Independent Entity (G/L/1161); Rules of Origin (G/L/1159 and G/RO/W/166); Technical Barriers to Trade (G/L/1167 and G/RO/W/166); and Working Party on State Trading Enterprises (G/L/1156 and G/STR/15).