



29 October 2018

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## **REPORT (2018) OF THE COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS**

1. Since the last review<sup>1</sup>, the Committee on Market Access has held two formal meetings (26 April and 9 October 2018) and two informal meetings (18 January and 28 May). An additional informal meeting is scheduled to take place on 6 November 2018. The minutes of the formal meetings are contained in documents G/MA/M/67 and G/MA/M/68 (to be issued).
2. At its formal meeting of 26 April 2018, the Committee took note of the nomination of Ms Zsófia Tvaruskó (Hungary) as Chairperson of the Committee for the current year and elected her by acclamation. At its meeting of 9 October, the Committee elected Mr. Diego Nunes Oger Fonseca (Brazil) as Vice-Chairperson.

### **1 WAIVERS**

3. At its formal meeting of 9 October 2018, the Committee approved the extension of the HS2002 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/756), the HS2007 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/757), the HS2012 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/758), and the HS2017 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/759)<sup>2</sup>. The Committee agreed to forward the draft waiver decisions to the General Council through the Council for Trade in Goods for appropriate action.

### **2 INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 1996 (HS1996) CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS**

4. At its meetings in 2018, 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. At the formal meeting of 9 October 2018, the Chairperson announced that the Schedules of concessions of all the 64 Members listed in the Annex of the Decision of 27 May 2009 (WT/L/756) had been successfully transposed into HS96 and certified.

### **3 INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 2002 (HS2002) CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS**

5. At its meetings in 2018, 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. At the formal meeting of 9 October 2018, the Chairperson announced that 114 Schedules of concessions had been transposed into HS2002 and certified.

### **4 INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 2007 (HS2007) CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS**

6. At its meetings in 2018, 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. At the formal meeting of

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<sup>1</sup> G/L/1190, dated 17 October 2017.

<sup>2</sup> A revised version was circulated in G/C/W/759/Rev.1

9 October 2018, the Chairperson announced that 108 Schedules of concessions had been transposed into HS2007 and certified.

## **5 INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 2012 (HS2012) CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS**

7. At its meetings in 2018, the Committee took note of the status of work concerning the introduction of HS2012 changes to schedules of concessions using the CTS database (WT/L/831), as well as the outcomes of the informal dedicated sessions of the Committee during which the files containing the HS2012 changes of Members were examined. At the formal meeting of 9 October 2018, the Chairperson announced that 87 Schedules of concessions had been transposed into HS2012 and certified.

## **6 INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 2017 (HS2017) CHANGES TO SCHEDULES OF CONCESSIONS**

8. At its meetings in 2018, the Committee took note of the status of work concerning the introduction of HS2017 changes to schedules of concessions using the CTS database (WT/L/995). At its meeting of 9 October 2018, the Committee considered the Note on Methodology prepared by the WTO Secretariat (JOB/MA/135) and agreed to hold informal consultations on the issue.

## **7 DECISION ON NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ("QR DECISION")**

9. At its meetings in 2018, the Committee examined new QR notifications submitted by eleven Members: Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, the European Union, India, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and Seychelles. The Committee also continued reviewing notifications which had been previously submitted by other Members. At its meeting of 9 October 2018, the Committee took note of a report by the Secretariat (G/MA/QR/6) with the status of such notifications.<sup>3</sup>

10. At its meeting of 26 April 2018, the Committee took note of a revised Practical Guide for the Notification of Quantitative Restrictions (JOB/MA/101/Rev.1 and JOB/MA/101/Rev.1/Corr.1), and took note of a report by the Vice-Chairperson concerning a "Capacity Building Workshop on the Notification of Quantitative Restrictions" held on 24-25 April 2018<sup>4</sup>. At its meeting of 9 October 2018, the Committee took note of a second revision of the practical guide (JOB/MA/101/Rev.2), which was adjusted by the Secretariat to take account of comments received from Members.

## **8 DATABASES**

11. At its formal meetings in 2018, the Secretariat reported on the status of work concerning the Integrated Data Base (IDB) and the Consolidated Tariff Schedules (CTS) database. The reports provided information on *inter alia* the use of information in the databases, the status of software development and technical assistance. The Committee also took note of the documents which reflected the status of submissions to the IDB (G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.47, G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.47/Corr.1 and G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.48). At its meeting of 9 October 2018, the Committee agreed to hold informal consultations to explore the possibility of revisiting the IDB Decision in WT/L/225, G/MA/IDB/1/Rev.1 and G/MA/IDB/1/Rev.1/Add.1.

## **9 OTHER ACTIVITIES**

12. At its meeting of 26 April 2018, the Committee took note of the Secretariat document entitled "Situation of Schedules of WTO Members" (G/MA/W/23/Rev.14), which lists all legal instruments relating to each Member's schedule. It also took note of the Secretariat document entitled "Factual Report on the Status of Renegotiations under Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994" (G/MA/W/123/Rev.3), which was further revised by the Secretariat (G/MA/W/123/Rev.4) for the formal meeting of 9 October.

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<sup>3</sup> A revised report was circulated in G/MA/QR/6/Rev.1.

<sup>4</sup> For more information, see [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news18\\_e/gres\\_24apr18\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news18_e/gres_24apr18_e.htm).

13. At its 26 April and 9 October meetings, the Committee took note of the following specific trade concerns:

Issue	Raised by:
Angola – Consumption tax	European Union
Australia – Discriminatory Market Access Prohibition on 5G Equipment	China
China - Customs duties on certain integrated circuits	European Union, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and the United States
Croatia - Regulations on import and sale of certain oil products	Russian Federation
Enlargement of the European Union to include Croatia - Negotiations under Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994	Russian Federation
European Union – Renegotiation of tariff rate quotas under Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994	Russian Federation
India – Customs duties on telecommunication and other products	Canada, China, the European Union, Japan, Norway, Chinese Taipei, and the United States
India – Quantitative restrictions on mung beans, black lentils, and pigeon peas	Australia
India – Quantitative restrictions on certain pulses	Australia, Canada, the European Union and the United States
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Excise tax on energy drinks and carbonated soft drink products	European Union and Switzerland
Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates – Selective Tax on Certain Imported Products	European Union, the United States, and Switzerland
Modification of the Republic of Haiti's Tariff Schedule XXVI	Dominican Republic
Oman – MFN customs duties on cigarettes	European Union and Switzerland
Rectifications and modifications of Schedule XIX - United Kingdom	Russian Federation
Russian Federation – Quantitative Restrictions on Birch Logs	European Union
United States – Prohibitive proposal on communications equipment or services released by the FCC	China

14. At its 9 October meeting, the Committee took note of a communication where Belize informed Members that it had reduced certain most-favoured-nation applied tariffs (G/MA/W/139).