



15 November 2019

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REPORT (2019) OF THE COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS

1. Since the last review¹, the Committee on Market Access has held three formal meetings (9 April, 28 May and 11 November 2019) and seven informal meetings (10 October 2018, 6 November 2018, 21 February 2019, 9 April 2019, 13 May 2019, 17 July 2019 and 24 September 2019). The minutes of the formal meetings are contained in documents G/MA/M/69, G/MA/M/70 and G/MA/M/71 (to be issued).

2. At its formal meeting of 28 May 2019, the Committee took note that the consultations in the Council for Trade in Goods concerning the Chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies remained ongoing, and agreed that, once the issue had been resolved, the Secretariat would send a communication with the proposed candidate and set a deadline for objections. On 5 June 2019, the Secretariat sent an e-mail informing that Mr Fernando Bruno ESCOBAR PACHECO (Bolivia) had been nominated, and on 7 June 2019 a second e-mail confirmed that he had been elected. At its meeting of 11 November 2019, the Committee elected Mr Christopher O'TOOLE (Canada) as Vice-Chairperson.

1 WAIVERS

3. At its formal meeting of 11 November 2019, the Committee approved the extension of the HS2002 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/768), the HS2007 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/769), the HS2012 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/770), and the HS2017 "collective" waiver (G/C/W/771)². 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 2019, the Committee took note of the status of work concerning the introduction HS96 changes to schedules of concessions. The Chairperson informed that the Schedules of concessions of all the 64 Members that were listed in the Annex of the Decision of 27 May 2009 (WT/L/756) had been successfully transposed into HS96 and certified. Technical work under the previous transposition procedures (GATT document L/6905) remained pending for one Member.

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

5. At its meetings in 2019, 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 11 November 2019, the Chairperson announced that 116 Schedules of concessions had been transposed into HS2002 and circulated for certification. Technical work remained pending for one Member.

¹ G/L/1271, dated 29 October 2018.

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

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

6. At its meetings in 2019, 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 11 November 2019, the Chairperson announced that 110 Schedules of concessions had been transposed into HS2007 and circulated for certification.

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

7. At its meetings in 2019, 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 11 November 2019, the Chairperson announced that 97 Schedules of concessions had been transposed into HS2012 and circulated for certification.

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

8. At its meetings in 2019, 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 April 2019, the Committee approved³ the Note on Methodology that had been prepared by the WTO Secretariat with some agreed adjustments (G/MA/366).

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

9. At its meetings in 2019, the Committee examined new QR notifications submitted by 20 Members: Afghanistan; Albania; China; Costa Rica; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Kazakhstan; Republic of Korea; Kyrgyz Republic; Macao, China; Nicaragua; New Zealand; Norway; Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Turkey; Ukraine; and Uruguay. The Committee also continued reviewing notifications which had been previously submitted by other Members. At its meeting of 28 May 2019, the Committee took note of a Secretariat report with factual information on the QR notifications received (G/MA/W/114/Rev.2). At its meeting of 11 November 2019, the Committee took note of a report by the Secretariat (G/MA/QR/8) with the status of such notifications.

8 DATABASES

10. At its formal meetings in 2019, 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.49, G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.50 and G/MA/IDB/2/Rev.50/Corr.1).

11. At its meeting of 9 October 2018, the Committee agreed to hold informal consultations to explore the possibility of revisiting the IDB Decision. Following a series of informal meetings that took place late in 2018 and at the beginning of 2019, at its formal meeting of 28 May 2019 the Committee adopted a new Decision on the Modalities and Operation of the Integrated Database (G/MA/367). During the same meeting, it granted access as authorized user to the International Grains Council. At its meeting of 11 November 2019, the International Grains Council made a presentation on how it uses tariff and import data, including the from the IDB and the CTS.

12. Pursuant to paragraph 15 of the newly adopted IDB Decision, the Committee held an informal dedicated session on 17 July 2019 to allow Members to provide feedback on the publications and

³ See G/MA/M/69.

online tools developed over the years by the Secretariat to disseminate tariff and import data that was collected through the IDB and Consolidated Tariff Schedules (CTS) databases. At its meeting of 11 November 2019, the Committee took note of a written summary of the feedback session that was prepared by the Secretariat (G/MA/W/144) as well as the results of a Members' survey.

9 OTHER ACTIVITIES

13. At its meeting of 28 May 2019, the Committee took note of the Secretariat document entitled "Situation of Schedules of WTO Members" (G/MA/W/23/Rev.15), 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.5).

14. At its meeting of 28 May and 11 November 2019 the Committee discussed a document by the Russian Federation on "Enhancing Transparency in Applied Tariffs" (JOB/MA/138).

15. At its meeting of 11 November 2019, the Committee took note of a Report by the Secretariat with a list of Members' Official Websites with Tariff Information and Import Statistics (G/MA/IDB/W/13 and G/MA/IDB/W/13/Add.1).

16. At its 28 May and 11 November 2019 meetings, the Committee took note of the following specific trade concerns:

Issue	Raised by ⁴ :
Angola – Import Restriction Practices	United States
Australia – Discriminatory Market Access Prohibition on 5G Equipment	China
China - Customs Duties on Certain Integrated Circuits	European Union, Japan, and Chinese Taipei
Croatia – Regulation of 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, Norway, Chinese Taipei, and the United States
India – Quantitative Restrictions on Certain Pulses	Australia, Canada, the European Union, Russian Federation, and the United States
Indonesia - Customs Duties on Certain Telecommunication Products	United States
Jamaica's Regulations Nos. 145 And 146 banning single-use plastic products	Dominican Republic
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
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Digital Stamp Tax	Switzerland
Mongolia – Quantitative Restrictions and Prohibitions on Importations of Certain Agricultural Products	Russian Federation

⁴ The column lists the Member(s) that raised the issue in any or all the formal meetings covered by this report.

Issue	Raised by⁴:
Pakistan – Import Control Order	Thailand
Rectifications and Modifications of Schedule XIX- United Kingdom	Russian Federation
Russian Federation – Quantitative Restrictions on Exports of Scrap and Waste of Ferrous Metals	European Union
United Kingdom - Renegotiation of Tariff Rate Quotas under Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994	Russian Federation
United States - Measures Regarding Export Control and Market Access Prohibitions for ICT Products	China